

BCS THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR IT

BCS HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS
BCS Level 5 Diploma in IT

PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS PRACTICE

Tuesday 1st April 2014 – Afternoon

Answer FOUR questions out of SIX. All questions carry equal marks.

Time: TWO hours

Answer any Section A questions you attempt in Answer Book A

Answer any Section B questions you attempt in Answer Book B

The marks given in brackets are **indicative** of the weight given to each part of the question.

Calculators are NOT allowed in this examination.

Section A

Answer Section A questions in Answer Book A

- A1. a) Briefly explain the **purpose** of a **Code of Conduct**. **(4 marks)**
- b) The BCS Code of Conduct is divided into four sections, one of these sections is 'The Public Interest'; name the other three sections. **(6 marks)**
- c) Identify and describe THREE different ways that the BCS promotes education. **(15 marks)**
- A2. a) The UK recognises two main types of limited company, the public limited company (Plc) and the private limited company (Ltd). What is the main difference between the two? **(4 marks)**
- A limited company may be limited **by shares** or **by guarantee**. Explain the meaning of these terms. **(4 marks)**
- In the UK, the status of "limited company", be it Plc or Ltd, imposes certain obligations on the company. What are these obligations? **(4 marks)**
- b) Two software developers who have recently graduated from college wish to set up a company aimed at developing music applications for mobile phones. They have approached you, a business consultant, seeking advice as to whether they should work as a partnership or set up a limited company.
- Explain the advantages and disadvantages of the two approaches. **(13 marks)**

Turn over]

- A3. a) UK legislation makes it illegal to discriminate in matters relating to employment on a number of different grounds. Briefly explain FIVE such grounds. **(10 marks)**
- b) Explain why it is necessary for information systems engineers to understand anti-discrimination legislation when they are acting in each of the following three roles:
- i) as a manager
 - ii) as a recruiter
 - iii) as a system designer.
- (15 marks)**

Section B

Answer Section B questions in Answer Book B

- B4. a) Explain what is meant by the following terms:
- i) fixed asset
 - ii) current asset
 - iii) current liability
 - iv) fixed cost
 - v) variable cost.
- (15 marks)**
- b) XYZ is a company that undertakes maintenance of computer hardware and system software for clients who have a large investment in IT. The basis of its business model is the rolling one-year maintenance contract. For each of the following, state whether they would normally be treated as a fixed asset, a current asset or a current liability in XYZ's accounts, or none of these:
- i) the stock of spare parts that XYZ maintains in order to be able to fix faults quickly;
 - ii) the cost of providing maintenance services to a client who has paid in advance for a twelve-month maintenance contract that has not yet come to an end;
 - iii) an outstanding debt owed to XYZ by one of its major customers;
 - iv) XYZ's internal telephone switchboard;
 - v) an invoice that XYZ has received from its electricity supplier but has not yet paid;
 - vi) a loan made to the company by one of its directors, due to be repaid in three years' time.
- (6 marks)**
- Give TWO examples of fixed costs that the company might incur and TWO examples of variable costs.
- (4 marks)**

- B5. a) Describe the key purpose and principles of the Freedom of Information Act
(9 marks)
- b) What information is covered by the Freedom of Information Act?
(6 marks)
- c) i) Explain how a web site can help a local government department to fulfil its obligations under the FOI.
(4 marks)
- ii) Describe what is required to ensure the web site complies with UK disability discrimination
(6 marks)
- B6. Norsksaga is a recently established computer games company. It has devised a company logo that consists of a red dragon's head, on a pale blue circular background, with the word 'NORSKSAGA' written around the circumference. Norsksaga is just about to release its first game, an adventure game called Beowulf, based on the famous Anglo-Saxon epic poem; this game includes a novel piece of hardware that attaches to a USB port and simulates the presence of a dragon.
- a) Discuss how Norsksaga could protect its company logo from misuse by other companies or individuals.
(10 marks)
- b) Discuss the mechanisms by which Norsksaga might protect the ideas and the implementation of the Beowulf game, and the extent to which this protection would be effective.
(15 marks)