

BCS THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR IT

BCS HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS
BCS Level 5 Diploma in IT

Professional Issues in Information Systems Practice

Tuesday 26th March 2019 - Afternoon

Answer **any** 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

Section B

Answer Section B questions in Answer Book B

Section A
Answer Section A questions in Answer Book A

A1. This question is about the BCS Code of Conduct.

- a) Briefly describe the purpose of the BCS Code of Conduct. **(5 marks)**
- b) One section of the Code of Conduct is 'Duty to the relevant authority'. With the aid of at least TWO examples, explain the meaning of the term 'relevant authority'. **(5 marks)**
- c) Within the Code of Conduct, the section 'Duty to the relevant authority' forbids three main types of behaviour in an organisation. Through the use of examples, discuss these three types of behaviour and how they can help BCS members to become better professionals. **(15 marks)**

A2. This question is about Organisations and their structure.

- a) Boards of directors are answerable to the shareholders and to the law. Their responsibilities fall into two main categories, namely legal and domestic. Discuss the legal responsibilities, and the domestic responsibilities of directors. **(13 marks)**
- b) TIL is a group of companies, which work in different business sectors throughout the world. The group's headquarters is located in the UK. All of the companies in the group make use of IT facilities to run their business operations.

Discuss the main arguments for decentralisation and centralisation of TIL's IT activities. **(12 marks)**

A3. This question is about Human Resources Management.

- a) Explain the meaning of the term 'Constructive dismissal' and describe ONE example. **(5 marks)**
- b) To whom does the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 (PIDA) apply and who is it designed to protect? **(8 marks)**
- c) Increasingly, recruitment is being outsourced to specialist agencies. Suggest reasons why this is happening and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this from the point of view of both the job seeker and the employer. **(12 marks)**

Section B
Answer Section B questions in Answer Book B

B4. This question is about **finance**.

- a) Explain the purpose of the following accounting documents and the relationship between them:
- i) balance sheet;
 - ii) profit and loss account;
 - iii) annual cash flow forecast.

(12 marks)

- b) Hosted solutions are services for business applications such as payroll or accounts which are made available over the internet and include both the necessary software and the computing facilities to run it. Assume that you work for a software company providing 'hosted solutions', using examples, explain how the following assets would be valued for balance sheet purposes:

- i) buildings, such as a data centre; **(4 marks)**
- ii) computer equipment, such as the servers in the data centre; **(5 marks)**
- iii) debtors, such as clients who pay on a quarterly basis in arrears for use of the software. **(4 marks)**

B5. This question is about **Intellectual Property (IP)**.

- a) Explain what a patent is and how a company could apply to patent a novel computer hardware device. **(9 marks)**
- b) Discuss the arguments for and against the patenting of software, especially in terms of large and small software development companies. **(16 marks)**

B6. This question is about **Internet Issues and Legal Obligations**.

- a) Explain the different responsibilities of a UK based Internet Service Provider that provides transmission only, caching and hosting services for clients. **(9 marks)**
- b) You are a computer forensic analyst with a UK Police Force. You are investigating a case of suspected money laundering within a UK based bank. Outline the duties of the bank under the UK Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 with regard to the Police investigation. **(16 marks)**

END OF EXAM