

BCS THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR IT

BCS HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS
BCS Level 5 Diploma in IT

PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS PRACTICE

Wednesday 3rd April 2013 – 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) Explain the purpose of professional bodies. **(4 marks)**
Give FOUR examples of how they can contribute to professional practice in organisations. **(16 marks)**
b) Explain what is meant by the term **professionalism** in the context of the IT industry. **(5 marks)**
- A2. a) Why should a manager delegate authority? **(9 marks)**
b) Through the use of examples, explain the difference between **unfair dismissal** and **constructive dismissal**. **(7 marks)**
c) List and explain THREE reasons why an organisation might consider outsourcing its IT activities. **(9 marks)**
- A3. a) The BCS Code of Conduct is divided into four sections; one of these sections is "Professional Competence and Integrity". Members of the BCS are expected to behave with professional competence and integrity. Give THREE explanations as to what this means using relevant examples. **(12 marks)**
b) Describe the system known as **management by objectives** (MBO). **(6 marks)**
Outline the main weaknesses of MBO. **(7 marks)**

Turn over]

Section B

Answer Section B questions in Answer Book B

- B4. a) Explain what is meant by the terms **fixed asset**, **current asset** and **current liability**. **(9 marks)**

XYZ is a company that undertakes large scale software development projects for major organisations, often on a fixed price basis. 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 lease XYZ owns on its main office
- ii) the value of the work in progress on a very large software project expected to last for three years
- iii) an outstanding debt owed to XYZ by one of its major customers
- iv) XYZ's main file server
- v) tax owed to the Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
- vi) a bank loan repayable at the end of five years.

(6 x 1 mark)

- b) Explain what is meant by the term **overhead**. **(3 marks)**

A software development company owns a powerful server that supports a software development environment, which is used by all its projects. The total cost of running this is £100,000 per year. Discuss briefly the different ways in which this cost might be allocated to individual projects.

(7 marks)

- B5. a) Terrier Insurance is an insurance company that sells car insurance, property insurance and many other kinds of insurance through its web site.

Describe the effect that the following pieces of legislation will have on the company's web site and associated procedures:

- i) disability discrimination legislation **(6 marks)**
- ii) legislation regarding e-commerce and distance selling. **(6 marks)**

- b) Peter is a cricketer. He has suspicions that a team mate, Fred, is involved in some 'match fixing' as part of a betting group. In this case he believes that bets are being placed on which ball Fred will get out on. Rather than raise it with Fred or the team captain, Peter makes a comment on a social media site accusing Fred of this action. Peter believes that only his friends will read this comment but it is shared publicly. Fred disputes the accusation and is intending to take legal action.

Explain the law of defamation as it relates to Peter's actions.

(6 marks)

What responsibility do the social media site or internet service provider that Peter is using have?

(7 marks)

B6. ClothesGalore is a large UK clothes outlet for leading brands in many cities. The company is considering creating a 'try-it-online' web site for customers to visualise through the web site how clothes look on themselves. ClothesGalore is not the first company to provide an online provision of this type.

a) Explain how ClothesGalore can protect its intellectual property for the new service using:

i) trade marks **(5 marks)**

ii) copyright and design rights **(8 marks)**

iii) domain names. **(5 marks)**

b) Another UK company, Virtualshop, has complained that ClothesGalore has copied its ideas for the e-commerce facility and is therefore infringing its intellectual property rights.

On what grounds might Virtualshop take legal action?

(7 marks)