School of Technologies

Assessment Brief

Module Code

CIS6004

Module Title

Professional & Ethical Issues in IT

Academic Year

2024/2025

Semester

1

Module Leader email

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Content

Assessment Details

Assessment title	Abr.	Weighting
Ethical, legal and professional issues in IT	WRIT1	100%

Pass marks are 40% for undergraduate work and 50% for postgraduate work unless stated otherwise.

Task/assessment brief:

Select a technology, case study, or an information system relevant to the module scope (Eg: IOT, Big Data, Privacy, social media, IP, Surveillance system etc.) and conduct research to identify the relevant ethical, social, legal and professional concerns related to the selected topic. Evaluate and discuss the issues identified covering the following tasks.

Write an essay covering the following areas related to the chosen topic.

   a) Identify the issues in terms of ethical, legal professional and social concerns of the selected topic. Critically evaluate different perspectives of the issues / concerns raised by applying relevant ethical principles, Acts and professional code of conducts. **(45 Marks) (2000 Words) (LO1) (LO2)**

   b) Discuss the different perspectives, arguments raised by other writers that have researched the ethical, legal, social and professional concerns of the same technology/ topic. Use creditable sources to conduct the research **(25Marks) (1000 Words) (LO1) (LO2)**

   c) Provide recommendations to mitigate the issues identified. Recommendation should be based on the creditable sources. **(15Marks) (600 Words) (LO1) (LO2)**

   d) Discuss the importance of ethical approach for the chosen topic and explain how it is helping an IT professional for his professional development. **(400 Words) (10Marks) (LO3)**

   e) Correct use of citation, referencing and use of credible and authoritative sources using Harvard referencing **(5 Marks)**

Word count (or equivalent):	4000

This a reflection of the effort required for the assessment. Word counts will normally include source code, any text, tables, calculations, figures, subtitles and citations. Reference lists and contents of appendices are excluded from the word count. Contents of appendices are not usually considered when determining your final assessment grade.

Academic or technical terms explained:

Submission Details

Submission Deadline:	This will be provided on the Moodle submission point.	**Estimated Feedback Return Date**	This will normally be 20 working days after initial submission.
Submission Time:	By 2.00pm on the deadline day.		

Moodle/Turnitin: Any assessments submitted after the deadline will not be marked and will be recorded as a non-attempt unless you have had an extension request agreed or have approved mitigating circumstances. See the School Moodle pages for more information on extensions and mitigating circumstances.

File Format: The assessment must be submitted as a pdf document (save the document as a pdf in your software) and submit through the Turnitin submission point in Moodle.

Your assessment should be titled with your:

student ID number, module code and assessment ID, e.g. st12345678 CSE5013 WRIT1

Feedback Feedback for the assessment will be provided electronically via Moodle. Feedback will be provided with comments on your strengths and the areas which you can improve. View the guidance on how to access your feedback.

All marks are provisional and are subject to quality assurance processes and confirmation at the programme Examination Board.

Assessment Criteria

Learning outcomes assessed

- Critically consider the wider legal, social, professional and ethical environment for IT professionals. **(LO1)**
- Critically discuss contemporary issues at the intersection of computing, technology, economy, politics and society. **(LO2)**

- Demonstrate appreciation of the importance of a professional and ethical approach to computer science, software engineering and information systems, along with the importance of lifelong professional development. **(LO3)**

Other skills/attributes developed

This includes elements of the Cardiff Met EDGE (Ethical, Digital, Global and Entrepreneurial skills) and other attributes developed in students through the completion of the module and assessment. These will also be highlighted in the module guidance, which should be read by all students completing the module. Assessments are not just a way of auditing student knowledge. They are a process which provides additional learning and development through the preparation for and completion of the assessment.

ETHICAL	Understanding Ethical Codes: IT professionals have a responsibility to adhere to ethical codes established by professional organizations or their employers. These codes outline principles like privacy, security, and accountability. Identifying Ethical Dilemmas: The fast-paced nature of IT can present situations where ethical boundaries are unclear. An ethical IT professional can recognize these situations and make informed decisions. Resolving Ethical Conflicts: When faced with an ethical dilemma, strong decision-making and critical thinking skills are essential. Consider all options, weigh the potential consequences, and choose the course of action that aligns with ethical principles
DIGITAL	Technical Expertise: A strong foundation in IT fundamentals is critical for understanding the technology you're working with and its potential impact. Information Literacy: Being able to research, evaluate, and synthesize information is crucial for navigating the ever-changing digital landscape.
GLOBAL	Intercultural Awareness: IT professionals often collaborate with teams across the globe. Understanding and appreciating different cultures is essential for effective communication and collaboration. Global Citizenship: Being aware of the global impact of IT is important. Consider issues like digital divide and unethical labor practices in the tech industry. Adaptability: The IT landscape is constantly evolving. The ability to adapt to new technologies and work styles is essential for long-term success.
ENTREPRENEURIAL	Problem-solving: IT professionals are constantly faced with challenges. Developing creative and effective solutions is a valuable skill. Innovation: The ability to think outside the box and develop new technological solutions is a key driver of progress in the IT industry. Initiative: Taking ownership and driving projects forward is a valuable asset in any IT professional

Marking/Assessment Criteria

Task	Poor < 40	Satisfactory 40 - 49	Good 50 -59	Very Good 60 -69	Excellent 70 -100
Task a	No or very few issues have been identified. Not enough evidence was presented to demonstrate the research conduct. Poor discussion and no proof of the applicability of the different theories given in the report. Poor analysis of the various perspectives of the sample. No or poor application of the relevant theories, principles, code of conduct, and acts.	Few issues have been identified. Few evidence presented to demonstrate the research conduct. Poor discussion and few evidence of applicability of the different theories given in the report. Basic analysis of the different perspectives of the sample. Few evidence of application of the relevant theories, principles, code of conduct and acts	Issues have been identified successfully with examples, demonstrate a basic understanding of the subject scope. Basic discussion presented by referring to few different perspectives. Reasonable level of application of the relevant principles, theories code of conduct and regulations	Very good understanding of the subject scope has been demonstrated and the discussion of different perspectives of stakeholders. Application of the theories, principles, code of conducts and Acts in good level. Good writing style, referencing and citation is correct.	An excellent set of issues have been identified. Evidences and justification were provided for the facts gathered from the sample. Excellent discussion provided. Different perspectives were considered and excellent application of the relevant principles, theories, code of conduct and Acts. Creditable sources used.
Task b	Poor or no analysis of the other writers' perspectives.	Few perspectives of other writers are present. Limited citations are visible.	Satisfactory analysis of other writers' perspectives and a reasonable number of credible sources were chosen. Citation and referencing are done correctly with minor	Very good evaluation, with a critical discussion of the others' perspectives. The sources selected are reliable, and a critical discussion of the other writers' perspectives was given. Citations and referencing are accurate	Excellent answer with outstanding arguments and discussion of the renowned and reliable authors' perspectives. Discussion is critical and an excellent set of arguments were raised. A good list of references is given and the

			mistakes.		citation is accurate.
Task c	No or very few set of recommendations and suggestions given.	Few recommendations and suggestions were given. Recommendations are not practical and specific.	The recommendation was given at a satisfactory level. Justification is given with few credible source	A good set of recommendations was suggested and provided justification with creditable source.	Excellent set of recommendations that are practical, specific, and relevant to the identified scenario/ topic. Solutions and recommendations have been justified pointing out the improvement which can bring along with them.
Task d	No or very few importance was discussed. Has not discussed how ethical approach is helping the development of IT professional	Few importance was discussed. Limited discussion was provided on how the ethical approach is helping the development of IT professional	A satisfactory level of discussion was provided highlighting the importance of an ethical approach in helping the development of IT professionals, providing justification with few evidence.	Has discussed a good set of importance with evidence with justification Has discussed how ethical approach is helping the development of IT professional with justification	Excellent discussion has been carried out on off importance ethical approach on the chosen topic with evidence with justification Given an excellent set of examples and evidence of how ethical approach is helping the development of IT professional
Task e	Very few citations in the body. Incorrect use of citation and compiled only the reference list without body citation. Citations and the reference list do not match.	Few citations in the body. The referencing list looks weak.	Correct use of citations but, the number of sources used is not sufficient. Use Harvard referencing	A very good set of sources is used and proper citation and referencing are done. Citations and the reference list do match. Creditable source used. Followed Harvard referencing properly.	A very good set of sources is used and proper citation and referencing are done. Creditable source used. Followed Harvard referencing properly.

Further Information

Who can answer questions about my assessment?

Questions about the assessment should be directed to the staff member who has set the task/assessment brief. This will usually be the Module Leader. They will be happy to answer any queries you have.

Staff members can often provide feedback on an assignment plan but cannot review any drafts of your work prior to submission. The only exception to this rule is for Dissertation Supervisors to provide feedback on a draft of your dissertation.

Referencing and independent learning

Please ensure you reference a range of credible sources, with due attention to the academic literature in the area. The time spent on research and reading from good quality sources will be reflected in the quality of your submitted work.

Remember that what you get out of university depends on what you put in. Your teaching sessions typically represent between 10% and 30% of the time you are expected to study for your degree. A 20-credit module represents 200 hours of study time. The rest of your time should be taken up by self-directed study.

Unless stated otherwise you must use the **HARVARD** referencing system. Further guidance on referencing can be found in the Study Smart area on Moodle and at www.citethemrightonline.com (use your university login details to access the site). Correct referencing is an easy way to improve your marks and essential in achieving higher grades on most assessments.

Technical submission problems

It is strongly advised that you submit your work at least 24 hours before the deadline to allow time to resolve any last minute problems you might have. If you are having issues with IT or Turnitin you should contact the IT Helpdesk on (+44) 2920 417000. You may require evidence of the Helpdesk call if you are trying to demonstrate that a fault with Moodle or Turnitin was the cause of a late submission.

Extensions and mitigating circumstances

Short extensions on assessment deadlines can be requested in specific circumstances. If you are encountering particular hardship which has been affecting your studies, then you may be able to apply for mitigating circumstances. This can give the teachers on your programme more scope to adapt the assessment requirements to support your needs. Extensions and mitigating circumstances policies and procedures are regularly updated. You should refer to your degree programme or school Moodle pages for information on extensions and mitigating circumstances.

Unfair academic practice

Cardiff Met takes issues of unfair practice **extremely seriously.** The University has procedures and penalties for dealing with unfair academic practice. These are explained in full in the University's Unfair Practice regulations and procedures under Volume 1, Section 8 of the Academic Handbook. The Module Leader reserves the right to interview students regarding any aspect of their work submitted for assessment.

Types of Unfair Practice, include:

Plagiarism, which can be defined as using without acknowledgement another person's words or ideas and submitting them for assessment as though it were one's own work, for instance by copying, translating from one language to another or unacknowledged paraphrasing. Further examples include:

- Use of any quotation(s) from the published or unpublished work of other persons, whether published in textbooks, articles, the Web, or in any other format, where quotations have not been clearly identified as such by being placed in quotation marks and acknowledged.
- Use of another person's words or ideas that have been slightly changed or paraphrased to make it look different from the original.
- Summarising another person's ideas, judgments, diagrams, figures, or computer programmes without reference to that person in the text and the source in a bibliography/reference list.
- Use of assessment writing services, essay banks and/or any other similar agencies (NB. Students are commonly being blackmailed after using essay mills).
- Use of unacknowledged material downloaded from the Internet.
- Re-use of one's own material except as authorised by your degree programme.

Collusion, which can be defined as when work that that has been undertaken with others is submitted and passed off as solely the work of one person. Modules will clearly identify where joint preparation and joint submission are permitted, in all other cases they are not.

Fabrication of data, making false claims to have carried out experiments, observations, interviews or other forms of data collection and analysis, or acting dishonestly in any other way.

How is my work graded?

Assessment grading is subject to thorough quality control processes. You can view a summary of these processes on the [Assessment Explained Infographic](#).

Grading of work at each level of Cardiff Met degree courses is benchmarked against a set of general requirements set out in Volume 1, Section 4.3 of our Academic Handbook. A simplified version of these Grade Band Descriptors (GBDs) with short videos explaining some of the academic terminology used can be accessed via the [Facilitation of Learning](#) resource page.

We would strongly recommend looking at the Study Smart area of Moodle to find out more about assessments and key academic skills which can have a significant impact on your grades. Always check your work thoroughly before submission.