

Name Surname Enrollment nr.

Law & Data EXAM
Padova | 16 June 2025

*Please, be reminded that unintelligible answers may not be taken into consideration in calculating your final score.
You will have 90 minutes to answer to all of them.*

Multiple-choice Questions (2 points each)

1. A data controller is:

- a. entitled to always deny the access to a data subject's personal data, except for the event where the latter's personal data are inaccurate
- b. always required to grant access to a data subject's personal data by anyone requesting it
- c. required to grant access to personal data held when requested by the data subject concerned
- d. required to grant access to personal data to subjects other than the data subject, when set forth by law

2. The European Data Protection Board is:

- a. An institution provided for by the Treaty on the European Union
- b. An agency of the European Commission aimed at protecting fundamental rights
- c. An independent body gathering the national supervisory authorities of each EU Member State
- d. Vested with the power to decide over cases involving EU staff members in their personal data protection processing

3. The EU Charter of fundamental rights expressly safeguards

- a. The right of data controllers and processors to process anyone's personal data
- b. The right of individuals to personal data protection
- c. The right of individuals to private and family life
- d. The right of individuals to process any other individuals' personal data

4. What is the difference between regulations and directives in EU law?)

- a. Regulations are immediately enforceable, while directives need domestic implementation
- b. Regulations are binding, while directives are only exhortations
- c. Regulations establish rules, whereas directives introduce principles
- d. There is no difference between the two notions

5. The AI Act is

- a. A soft law legal instrument offering guidelines for using AI
- b. A hard law regulation adopted by the EU
- c. An international convention governing the use of AI worldwide
- d. A regulation adopted by the EU which might influence extra-EU countries in adopting similar legislation

Open Questions (10 points each)

A. Please explain what it is meant for ‘personal data’ according to the EU GDPR and clarify whether there are special categories of personal data, if any, and describe their differences in processing compared to general categories of personal data. Moreover, explain what are synthetic data and possible differences with the above personal data (no more than 15 lines).

Definition of personal data under article 4 GDPR

Definition of special categories of personal data under article 9 GDPR

Differences in processing of personal data and special categories of PD

Definition of synthetic data, which are artificially created for training purposes and, not being PD, are not governed by the GDPR

B. Please describe the development of EU secondary law legislation (from directives to regulations) on the protection of personal data and the reasons underlying said development (no more than 15 lines).

Directive 95/46

GDPR (2016)

Regulation 2018/1725

Directive 2016/680 (only for prevention, investigation, detection, prosecution of criminal offences)

EU Data Protection Package

Using directives in light of a liability-oriented approach shifted to the use of regulations to adopt a compliance-oriented approach

More harmonization within the EU (reason for the shift from directives to regulations)