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# Coursework commentary

## 2017–2018

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### CO3318 Information systems management

#### Coursework assignment 2

##### General remarks

This coursework assignment consisted of two questions each carrying an equal number of marks. It was important therefore that students gave good quality answers to both questions in order to obtain high marks.

In general the standard on this coursework assignment was good. However as with coursework assignment 1, students yet again did not provide citations within the text as to where their information was being sourced from. Many students simply provided a list of references at the end of their reports. This is not acceptable academic practice.

##### Comments on specific questions

###### Question 1

This question was well answered. Students gave a clear description of the balanced scorecard as a business performance tool and discussed its importance to the information systems manager. Many students provided a clear definition of what is meant by the balanced scorecard, but once again did not sufficiently cite where they had sourced their definition from. Where this definition was replicated directly from the source, it was required that the definition be placed in inverted commas and that the page number of the source be provided.

The critical component in doing well on this question was to provide a critique of this tool. Good answers therefore discussed both the advantages and disadvantages of the balanced scorecard. As there is a lot of academic material available on this subject, most students were able to do well in answering this question. When students summed up their assignment by adding a real world example they scored additional marks.

###### Question 2

This is a topical question. Most students provided a very clear description of blockchain technology and how it works by providing information from a wide range of academic sources. Some students included diagrams to further explain the concepts and these were acceptable in this instance. In general, students went on to provide rigorous descriptions of the role of blockchain in security. A shortcoming in answering this question was to simply 'cut and paste' information from a single source rather than considering a wide range of academic literature and discussion.