University of London International Programmes

Computing and Information Systems
CO1108 Information Systems: foundations of e-business
Coursework assignments 2015–16

<u>**Coursework assignment 1**</u>

Introduction

In this course, you have been learning the skills required to understand information systems from the viewpoint of a business professional. This coursework assignment gives you the opportunity to explore and apply your understanding of the role and potential impact of IS for business.

Please submit **one** pdf document, which is named using the following convention:

FamilyName_SRN_COxxxxcw#.pdf (e.g. Zuckerberg_920000000_CO3323cw2.pdf)

- o **FamilyName** is your family name (also known as last name or surname) as it appears in your student record (check your student portal)
- o **SRN** is your Student Reference Number, for example 920000000
- o **COXXXX** is the course number, for example CO1108, and
- o **cw#** is either cw1 (coursework 1) or cw2 (coursework 2).

Assignment objectives

- Demonstrate an understanding of the opportunities associated with introducing information systems.

- Apply appropriate frameworks and techniques learnt on the course.

- Demonstrate your understanding of the impact of IT on organisational internal and external relationships.

- Demonstrate your ability to undertake research to support your findings.

Reading for assignment

You should read the subject guide and recommended text for this course before completing this coursework assignment. In addition to reading these sources you should also consult appropriate library and Internet resources. You are reminded that you must correctly reference all your sources. Failure to do so will result in you being penalised.

Marks for assignment

You can obtain a maximum of 25 marks for each of the four questions that make up this assignment.

Word length

Your assignment should be no more than 3,000 words in total. You are required to show the word count at the top of your assignment.

Coursework assignment 1

Scenario

You are the IT/IS technology consultant for a global business consultancy company. Your company has been retained to advise a major electronics company of the importance of competitive advantage and the impact on the organisation of strategic initiatives following the implementation of new IT/IS systems.

Answer the following questions as your consultancy brief:

1. Discuss what is meant by the concepts of competitive advantage and sustained competitive advantage in the context of information systems.

    [25 marks]

2. Discuss four competitive strategies that the organisation can choose to pursue which might be enabled through the use of information systems.

    [25 marks]

3. Discuss what you would consider to be the central organisational factors which will need to be considered by the company in planning for new systems.

    [25 marks]

4. Discuss four reasons why there may be resistance by employees of the organisation to the introduction of the new information system.

    [25 marks]

    [Total 100 marks]

[END OF COURSEWORK ASSIGNMENT 1]

Coursework assignment 2

Introduction

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Assignment objectives

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- Demonstrate your understanding of the impact of IT on organisational internal and external relationships.
- Demonstrate your ability to undertake research to support your findings.

Reading for assignment

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Marks for assignment

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Word length

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Coursework assignment 2

Scenario

Choose an organisation that you are familiar with e.g. a university/hospital/automobile manufacturer/multi-channel retailer. Imagine that you have been asked by this organisation to act as an IS/IT consultant for them. They are concerned that, as there have recently been a number of catastrophic systems failures in the business world, they are not sufficiently prepared to deal with such an occurrence should it happen to their organisation. They want you as the consultant to identify, evaluate and make recommendations relating to catastrophic systems failure to them.

Answer the following questions as your consultancy brief:

1. Identify **four** risks the organisation faces which may lead to catastrophic failure.

[25 marks]

2. Evaluate the impact that each of the risks that you have identified in Question 1 above might have on the organisation.

[25 marks]

3. Make a set of recommendations to them on how the risks you have identified may be mitigated.

[25 marks]

4. Discuss who should be responsible for managing the risk policy for the organisation.

[25 marks]

[Total 100 marks]

[END OF COURSEWORK ASSIGNMENT 2]