B.Sc in Information Technology

YEAR 2

SUMMER EXAMINATIONS 2002

PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN IS PRACTICE

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Monday 20th May, 10am - 1pm

Attempt FOUR questions.

Each question carries a total of 25 marks.
Q.1. (a) Oarsoft International Plc. is a multinational manufacturing organisation with centres in the Americas, Europe and Asia/Pacific. Oarsoft are extensive users of off-the-shelf software products and they also commission new software solutions from external supplier organisations. As IT manager for Europe write a report for the group IT director explaining your current policy regarding the intellectual property rights of the software under your control. (25 marks)

Q.2. Agreements to acquire bespoke software products are normally set out in a legally binding contract between the acquirer and the supplier.

(a) Explain the principal sections you would expect to be included in such a contract. (17 marks)

(b) What special conditions would you include in order to protect the interests of both parties in the event of project cancellation? (8 marks)

Q.3. (a) In the context of the Data Protection Act of 1988, explain the meaning of the terms Data Controller, Data Processor and Data Subject. (3 marks)

(b) Discuss the main provisions of the Act. (15 marks)

(c) Briefly outline the rights of Data Subjects. (4 marks)

(d) Explain why certain personal data is exempted from the Act. (3 marks)

Q.4. (a) Discuss the role of Professional Institutions in the IS sector. (15 marks)

(b) You have a number of years exemplary service with a national financial institution and following an open competition you have recently been promoted to a senior IT position within the institution. An essential requirement for all applicants for this position was membership of a professional institution.

As part of a routine maintenance project you have discovered that your employer has for a number of years been manipulating calculations in order to overcharge customers for interest and banking fees. You also have strong evidence that other national financial institutions with whom your employer has “loose associations” have been engaged in the same practice.

In the context of the professional codes of conduct and practice of your professional institution discuss your responsibility in this situation. (10 marks)

[Turn over]
Q.5. The International Organisation for Standardisation has published a set of standards in the ISO 9000 series, which relate to quality.

(a) Discuss how software quality is addressed by this ISO 9000 series of standards. (12 marks)
(b) Explain how these software quality standards impact software development companies. (9 marks)
(c) Outline the process by which ISO standards evolve. (4 marks)

Q.6. Write short notes on any FIVE of the following:

i. Computer Misuse Act 1990;
ii. Limited liability company status;
iii. Freedom of Information Act;
iv. Staff training and development;
v. Financial control of IS investments;
vi. Software theft. (5 X 5 marks)