

**BCS THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR IT**  
**BCS HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS**  
**BCS Level 5 Diploma in IT**

**PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS PRACTICE**

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2016 - Afternoon  
Answer **any** FOUR questions out of SIX. All questions carry equal marks  
Time: TWO hours

**Answer any Section A questions you attempt in Answer Book A**  
**Answer any Section B questions you attempt in Answer Book B**

The marks given in brackets are **indicative** of the weight given to each part of the question.

Calculators are <b>NOT</b> allowed in this examination.
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**Section A**

Answer Section A questions in Answer Book A

- A1. a) According to its Royal Charter, what is the primary purpose of the BCS? **(5 marks)**
- b) List and briefly explain TWO ways in which BCS advances knowledge of computing. **(2x5 marks)**
- c) The BCS provides **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** services to individual members. List and briefly describe TWO ways in which the BCS provides **CPD**. **(2x5 marks)**
- A2. a) Provide THREE reasons why a manager should **delegate**. **(6 marks)**
- b) Briefly describe the purpose of each of the following psychometric tests:
- i) ability tests; **(3 marks)**
  - ii) aptitude tests; **(3 marks)**
  - iii) personality tests. **(3 marks)**
- c) One effect a new information system has on an organisation is the probable need to change job structures and functions. Such change is often resisted by employees. In many cases the resistance is based on fear rather than knowledge of the truth.
- For such a scenario, explain TWO methods an employer can use to deal with employees who are resistant to change. **(10 marks)**

**Turn over]**

- A3. a) Explain what is meant by a **limited company**. **(4 marks)**
- b) When a new private limited company is incorporated, it is necessary to submit two documents: the **Memorandum of Association** and the **Articles of Association**.  
Describe the purpose of these two documents. **(9 marks)**
- c) Provide **THREE** advantages and **THREE** disadvantages of a functional structure for an organisation. **(12 marks)**

### **Section B**

Answer Section B questions in Answer Book B

- B4. a) Employees of SoftNet Software plc work a five-day week over a 52-week year. They are entitled to 28 days of company holiday including 8 days of public holiday. Assume that on average 20 days a year are unproductive due to various reasons such as staff training and seminars. In accordance with government regulations, employers must pay social security and pension contributions equal to 8% of total salary.  
  
Calculate the average direct cost of one day's work for a **Team Leader** earning £40,000 per year and a **Programmer** earning £25,000.  
  
State explicitly any assumptions you make. **(10 marks)**
- b) SoftNet Software plc bought a file server for £25,000. The useful life of the server was expected to be 5 years. Due to upgrading plans for all the computer equipment, the file server was sold to another software development company for £12,000 after three years.  
  
Calculate the depreciation amounts and explain the effect of this transaction on SoftNet's accounts using the following two methods:
- Straight line method. **(7 marks)**
  - Declining balance method. **(8 marks)**
- B5. a) Explain **THREE** different ways that the UK Data Protection Act 1998 provides protection for individuals. **(15 marks)**
- b) Explain the role of the UK Office of the Information Commissioner with regard to the UK Data Protection Act 1998. Illustrate your answer with an example of how the Information Commissioner's Office has used its powers. **(10 marks)**

- B6. a) Explain the law relating to the sending of 'spam' to individuals within the European Union. **(8 marks)**

How does this law differ from the corresponding law in the USA? **(4 marks)**

- b) Briefly explain the responsibilities of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) under the European Directive 2000/31/EC in relation to customer content on their servers. **(8 marks)**

- c) Suppose that an internet site in the USA, hosted by an American ISP, contains a statement by someone from France about a businessman living in the UK that would be considered defamatory in the UK but not in the USA. For example, the businessman in the UK might be accused of fraud.

Briefly describe the jurisdiction issues related to this case and the potential action the businessman in the UK can take to defend himself. **(5 marks)**