

**BCS THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR IT**

**BCS HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS  
BCS Level 5 Diploma in IT**

**PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS PRACTICE**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 - 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 **NOT** allowed in this examination.

**Section A**  
**Answer Section A questions in Answer Book A**

**A1.**

- a) In the context of the computing industry, explain the meaning of the term professionalism. **(5 marks)**
- b) Explain the purpose of a Code of Conduct for a professional body. **(5 marks)**
- c) A software engineer is working for a car manufacturer on the engine control system. The engineer is a member of BCS.

Discuss **THREE** ways that the Code of Conduct's "Duty to relevant authority" should guide the engineer's work. **(15 marks)**

**A2.**

- a) Explain why it is necessary for information systems professionals to understand anti-discrimination legislation when they are working in each of the following roles:
- i. As a manager;
  - ii. As a recruiter.
- (10 marks)**
- b) Explain what the SFIAplus framework is and describe **TWO** ways that it can be used to aid professional development in an IT company. **(15 marks)**

**A3.**

- a) A company purchased a computer server for £100,000 with an estimated useful life of 5 years.
- i. Calculate the depreciation for the server over its useful life of 5 years:
    - using the straight-line method for 5 years, and
    - using the reducing-balance method, assuming a 50% reduction per year.

**(12 marks)**
  - ii. If the company sold the server at the end of year 3 for £20,000, what impact would it have on profit/loss using both methods? **(4 marks)**
- b) Explain the following:
- i. Direct Costs and Indirect Costs, with at least **ONE** example of each. **(6 marks)**
  - ii. Working Capital. **(3 marks)**

**Section B**  
**Answer Section B questions in Answer Book B**

**B4.**

Three friends in the UK have developed a new software package that can scan computer networks to highlight problems with security. They are discussing how to start a business to develop and sell this software.

One friend suggests that they setup a partnership and the other friend suggests a limited company.

- a) Discuss **TWO** advantages and **ONE** disadvantages of setting up a partnership. **(9 marks)**
- b) Discuss **TWO** advantages and **ONE** disadvantages of setting up a limited company. **(9 marks)**
- c) The friends have discussed the possibility of raising equity to fund the growth of the business. Discuss which of the two types of business would be better for this situation. **(7 marks)**

**B5.**

- a) Explain the main features of the UK Freedom of Information legislation. **(10 marks)**
- b) The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) enforces the use of the UK's Data Protection legislation. Explain **THREE** actions that the ICO can take against UK organisations that have broken, or are suspected of breaking, the legislation. **(15 marks)**

**B6.**

- a) A company is developing a smartphone app to share cooking recipes and videos of cooking tips.
  - i. How does the UK Equality legislation apply to the design of the app? **(8 marks)**
  - ii. Identify up to **FIVE** ways that the accessibility of the app can be improved. **(5 marks)**
- b) Discuss how UK Defamation legislation applies to the use of social media. **(12 marks)**

**END OF EXAMINATION**