

Module Title: Professional Issues

Exam Diet (Dec/April/Aug): Aug 2007

Brief notes on answers:

1. (a) IFIP felt that codes of conduct contained assumptions based on a white, affluent, Western style of conducting business and did not want to try and impose these on others. Weaknesses and limitations include poor drafting that clouds meaning, lack of precision and the aforementioned impossibility of having one set of rules that copes with the differences in ethics and other standards across the world
- (b) It can be terminated in a controlled manner upon completion of the business according to agreed criteria within the contract. It could be terminated by the agreement of both parties. It could be terminated by one party defaulting, e.g. Anticipatory breach, failure to perform, defective performance or failure to perform timeously (all covered in notes). Clauses relating to definition of the problem, frameworks and terms for dispute resolution among others all apply.
- (c) Most forms of original work (e.g. Copyrights, trade marks, domain names) will be regarded as intellectual property which will carry rights of ownership. Patents are designed to protect innovation - the idea is published but protected if new, original, capable of exploitation and not in an excluded area. A trade mark is a sign capable of being represented graphically and distinguishes goods or services. Copyright covers 'work' (numerous definitions) and relates to the rights of others to copy it. Any sensible discussion may attract marks.
- (d) This comes from the lecture on Change Management by Trish Gray. Issues include planning, timing, training, communication of what is going on to all concerned, testing, risk strategies, back-out mechanisms, checkpoints and milestones, go/no-go decisions etc.
- (e) This question invites a discussion of the role of P.E.S.T. or S.W.O.T. analysis, Four-Ps, Porter's 5 forces. Choose any two (bookwork)

2. Topics I would expect to see include failure to do any or all of the following:

Technical:

- Specify products or processes (failure: wrong product for the job, safety issues)
- Argue for good solutions within a team (failure: non-optimal solutions)
- Present a product to the customer (failure: fail to sell the product)
- Understand and respond to the needs of the customer (failure: wrong product)
Document the product (failure: maintenance becomes costly or mistakes get made; safety issues)

Personal:

- Communicate goals within the group
- Communicate individual or group concerns upwards to management
- and so on.

3. This is mostly an invitation to describe the scope of each of the pieces of legislation and look at how they interact (e.g. conflicts between privacy e.g. ECHR vs. FoI and RIP, conflicts between Data Protection and FoI). There are many unresolved issues here so precise answers aren't expected. Discussions of the ethical arguments behind the laws will be accepted as would a step by step discussion of how such an investigation would be carried out (*provided* such a discussion linked back to the legal/ethical framework under which it was carried out. Issues in the investigation would include understanding what the law allows/expects an internal investigator to look at plus safeguards (e.g. having second witnesses, knowledge of published policies on access to potentially private information and so on.