

SEMESTER 2 EXAMINATION 2005/2006

BASIC COMPUTING COMPETENCE

Duration: 120 mins

*Answer ALL of the questions in Section A
and TWO questions from Section B*

*Section A is multiple choice. Correct
answers are worth two marks
a wrong answer is worth **minus** one mark.*

*Section B questions are essays. You should
spend about 45 minutes per question.*

Calculators MAY NOT be used.

*This exam is worth no course credits, but failure to
pass will result in the termination of your degree.*

SECTION A - Multiple Choice

1. You are trying to print your coursework on the lab printer, but it has ran out of paper. What should you do?
 - a) Read the notices by the printer to see if they can help.
 - b) Ask at the Helpdesk for more printer paper.
 - c) Re-use some old paper.
 - d) Stand around looking stupid and hope someone fills the printers while you wait.
2. While you are working on some coursework, you notice that your email has stopped working. On arriving at the Helpdesk office, you notice that the systems staff are in the small room next to Helpdesk, swearing loudly and thumping machines. What do you do?
 - a) Enter the small room and exclaim "My email isn't working!"
 - b) Enter the small room and say "I'm having difficulties connecting to UG-IMAP"
 - c) Turn around and walk away.
 - d) Enter the small room and ask "What are all those pretty lights for?"

3. You are having trouble with some programming coursework, what course of action would you take to solve this.
- a) Search the web for information, look at some textbooks, then ask the Helpdesk for advice on the part of code that's causing you difficulty.
 - b) Print all 300 lines of compiler output and wave them at the Helpdesk, moaning "It doesn't work!"
 - c) Rip off the code from one of your coursemates, remembering to change variable names and comments.
 - d) Rip off the code from one of your coursemates verbatim, including their name at the top of the code.
4. You have received an important mail from a fellow student, but the attachment has been quarantined by MailScanner. What do you do?
- a) Go to the Helpdesk and demand your attachments back.
 - b) Ask your coursemate to send it again, hoping "MailScanner might not get it this time"
 - c) Click the URL labelled "Request this attachment from quarantine" in the MailScanner report.
 - d) Ask your coursemate to bring you the file on a floppy disk.

5. It is Part III Project Handin day, do you...
- a) Stare at the printer queues silently chanting "C'mon, c'mon, hurry up, hurry up!"
 - b) Loudly play UT to prove to others how you have already submitted your project.
 - c) Go to the pub for a few drinks and celebrate, having handed your project in early.
 - d) Look at the queues and think "95% for a day late isn't so bad", then give up for the day.

(total: 10 marks)

SECTION B - Essay questions

6. The Undergraduate Wiki is a useful resource available to all students, but is difficult to police. Describe what usage policy you would apply to keep the Wiki as useful as possible, you should consider the risks of flamewars, trolls and stupid discordian rubbish. You may include sketches or diagrams if you wish.

(30 marks)

7. You have been hired as a summer student to create a new lab Linux build. Describe what features are most important in a lab Linux build. You are given free choice of Linux distribution. Decide which you would use and explain the relative merits of your choice.

(30 marks)

8. You have learned that ECS are giving out IBM Thinkpads to students as part of the Linux Challenge Project. You have no interest in Linux, but nevertheless would like to get your grubby little fingers on one of these laptops. Describe what lies you would tell to the systems staff in your attempt to blag one. You should consider the relative merits bribery, blackmail and theft.

(30 marks)

END OF PAPER