1.7 Ethical, Legal, Cultural and Environmental Impact: Test Pack

Total Marks

OCR J277 · Calculators not allowed · about 25 minutes

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Show all your working.

1 Two of the four strands the OCR specification identifies for the impact of digital technology are 'ethical issues' and 'environmental issues'.

(a) Define what is meant by an 'ethical issue' relating to computer technology. **(1)**

(b) Define what is meant by an 'environmental issue' relating to computer technology. **(1)**

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Under the Data Protection Act 2018, organisations that store personal data must follow a number of data protection principles. State two data protection principles organisations must follow.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives members of the public certain rights regarding information held by public bodies such as councils and government departments. Explain the right this Act gives to the public and the purpose of the Act.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Social media and instant messaging have changed the way people in the UK communicate and interact with each other.

(a) Describe two positive cultural impacts of social media. **(2)**

(b) Describe two negative cultural impacts of social media. **(2)**

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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5 A logistics company plans to fit GPS trackers to all delivery vans and monitor drivers' keystrokes on their work laptops, without asking staff for their opinion first. Discuss the ethical and legal issues raised by this level of employee monitoring.

(Total for Question 5 is 6 marks)

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6 Explain two ways in which digital communication (such as messaging apps and video calls) has changed UK culture compared with traditional communication methods (such as letters and landline phone calls).

(Total for Question 6 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 1.7 Ethical, Legal, Cultural and Environmental Impact: Test Pack

Question 1

(a) reference to a question of whether an action involving technology is morally right or wrong / fair (oe) **B1**

(a) Answer: An ethical issue is a question about whether the use of technology is morally right or wrong, e.g. whether it is fair, honest or respects people's rights.

(b) reference to the effect of technology on the natural world, resources, energy use or waste (oe) **B1**

(b) Answer: An environmental issue is a question about how the manufacture, use or disposal of technology affects the natural world, e.g. energy use, pollution or waste.

Question 2

any one valid principle, e.g. processed lawfully, fairly and transparently / for a specified purpose / limited to what is necessary / kept accurate and up to date / kept for no longer than necessary / kept securely **B1**

a second, different valid principle from the list above **B1**

Answer: Any two of: data must be processed lawfully, fairly and transparently; collected for a specified and legitimate purpose; adequate and limited to what is necessary; accurate and kept up to date; kept for no longer than necessary; processed with appropriate security.

Question 3

the public has the right to request information held by public sector organisations, which must normally respond within a set time limit **B1**

its purpose is to increase the transparency/accountability of public bodies (oe) **B1**

Answer: It gives the public the right to request information held by public sector organisations, which must normally respond within 20 working days; its purpose is to make public bodies more transparent and accountable.

Question 4

(a) keeps people connected with friends/family regardless of distance **B1**

(a) second distinct point, e.g. allows communities/campaigns to organise and share information quickly; gives a platform for diverse voices to be heard; supports access to learning/information **B1**

(a) Answer: Any two of: keeps people connected with friends and family over long distances; lets communities and campaigns organise and share information quickly; gives a platform for a wider range of voices and cultures to be heard.

(b) can spread misinformation/fake news quickly **B1**

(b) second distinct point, e.g. can enable cyberbullying/online harassment; can create pressure to present an idealised life, affecting mental health; can reduce face-to-face interaction **B1**

(b) Answer: Any two of: misinformation/fake news can spread very quickly; it can enable cyberbullying or harassment; it can pressure users to present an idealised life, affecting mental health; it can reduce face-to-face interaction.

Question 5

Level 1 A basic, largely one-sided answer with limited or no reference to the scenario. Little use of relevant terminology (e.g. privacy, consent, Data Protection Act). **1-2**

Level 2 Some relevant ethical and/or legal points are made, with limited development or balance. Some reference is made to the specific scenario. **3-4**

Level 3 A well-balanced discussion covering both ethical and legal issues, clearly applied to the scenario, leading to a reasoned conclusion. **5-6**

Indicative content:

- Monitoring can be seen as intrusive/an invasion of privacy, especially keystroke logging, which may capture personal messages typed during breaks.
- Staff have not been consulted or informed in advance, so may not have given meaningful consent, which could breach the fairness/transparency principle of the Data Protection Act 2018.
- The company could argue monitoring improves safety (locating vans in an emergency) and protects productivity/company data.
- GPS tracking of company vehicles during work hours is generally seen as more justifiable than keystroke logging, since it relates directly to the job role.
- Under the DPA 2018, employers must have a lawful reason for monitoring, should inform staff what is collected and why, and should keep monitoring proportionate to its purpose.
- A balanced conclusion weighs the business's legitimate interest in security/productivity against employees' right to privacy, and might recommend consultation and greater transparency rather than banning monitoring outright.

Question 6

point 1: communication is now near-instant **B1**

development: people now expect immediate replies, changing social norms/etiquette around response times compared with letters, which could take days **B1**

point 2: video calls allow cheap, easy face-to-face contact with people overseas **B1**

development: this strengthens long-distance family/friendship ties in a way that was expensive using traditional landline calls **B1**

Answer: Communication is now near-instant, so people expect immediate replies, changing etiquette compared with letters which could take days; video calls also allow cheap, easy face-to-face contact with people overseas, strengthening long-distance family ties in a way that was expensive with traditional landline calls.

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