BTEC DIT Component 3 – C2 Legal and Ethical

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Highly detailed revision guide for C2 Legal and Ethical covering legislation, net neutrality, acceptable use policies, intellectual property, criminal computer use, examples, advantages, disadvantages, and exam questions.

C2: Legal and Ethical Use of Digital Systems

Importance of Equal Access

- Benefits to organisations, individuals, and society.
- Legal requirements and professional guidelines to ensure accessibility.

Net Neutrality

- Ensures ISPs treat all internet data equally.
- Impacts organisations by preventing preferential treatment of certain content.

Acceptable Use Policies (AUPs)

- Scope: who the document applies to.
- Assets: equipment, documents, knowledge covered.
- Acceptable Behaviours: what is allowed.
- Unacceptable Behaviours: what is prohibited.
- Monitoring: how behaviour is monitored.
- Sanctions: consequences of breaking the policy.
- Agreement: acknowledgement by signing or clicking to agree.

Blurring of Social and Business Boundaries

- Use of social media for business purposes.
- Impact of personal digital behaviour on professional life.

Data Protection Principles

- Lawful processing.
- Collection for specific purpose only.
- Only needed information is collected.

- Data should be accurate and kept as long as necessary.
- Respect data subject rights.
- Data should be protected and not transferred to countries with weaker protection.

Internet and Data Use

- Right to be forgotten.
- Appropriate and legal use of cookies and transactional data.

Intellectual Property

- Importance in organisations.
- Identification and protection methods: trademarks, patents, copyright.
- Legal and ethical use: permissions, licensing, attribution.

Criminal Use of Computer Systems

- Unauthorised access to systems.
- Unauthorised modification of materials.
- Creation and distribution of malware.

Examples

- Using licensed software and respecting copyright.
- Implementing GDPR-compliant data storage.
- Organisation enforcing an Acceptable Use Policy for staff devices.

Advantages & Disadvantages

- Advantages: ensures legal compliance, protects organisation and individuals, improves ethical behaviour, reduces risk of penalties.
- Disadvantages: may restrict some user freedoms, requires ongoing staff training, can be time-consuming to enforce and monitor.

Sample Exam Questions

- Explain the purpose of an Acceptable Use Policy and its key components.
- Describe how intellectual property is protected in digital systems.
- Evaluate the impact of net neutrality on organisations.