

*University of London*

**EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS**

*For The Following Qualifications:-*

*M.A. M.Sc.*

**SLAIS P29: Principles of Computing and Information Technology B2**

**COURSE CODE : INSTP029**

**DATE : 02-JUN-03**

**TIME : 10.00**

**TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours**

## **INSTP029: Principles of computing and information technology**

Answer **THREE** questions.

1. 'It is staggering to consider how much money has been spent on computer-based systems which have failed to function as the user wished.' Why do you think this statement was made? Would you agree with its sentiments? What would you suggest as possible reasons that this might happen? What, if anything, could be done to prevent it happening in the future?
2. **EITHER**  
(a) 'You have no privacy, get used to it' (Steve Jobs, CEO Apple Computer Inc.). What are your views on this statement about privacy in the information society?  
**OR**  
(b) Is freedom of information more important than privacy? Do the issues change as our information environment becomes increasingly electronic? Discuss.
3. You are a web designer whose client is not aware of good practice in terms of usability. Write a report explaining what the principles of good usability are, and explain why they should be adopted on the site that you are designing.
4. Why are standards important in information work, particularly within an automated environment? What problems arise from the need for standards and the ways in which various kinds of standard are actually created, recognized, and implemented? Illustrate your answer with reference to real-world examples.
5. Is it possible or desirable to regulate the Internet? Explain your views taking into account both content and infrastructure.
6. What is the value of information on the Internet, and how might users be persuaded to pay for it?
7. Briefly discuss the methods, impact and likely future development of digital publishing with reference to at least **two** of the following: authors, users, librarians, publishing houses.
8. It has been said that the usefulness of an electronic document is determined by the markup within it. What kinds of markup are possible? What are the implications for individuals and organizations that make material available in electronic format?
9. Discuss the positive and negative effects that technology is having on the provision of information on a global basis.

**END OF PAPER**