UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
Cambridge International Diploma in Management
Higher Professional Level

INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT **4260/01**

Core Module   **Valid between 1 January 2010 and 30 June 2011**

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

You should read the assignment carefully.

It is important to complete the **Assignment Cover Sheet** when you have finished your work. You must complete the details and sign the declaration to confirm that the assignment is all your own work and your tutor must sign to verify that it is your own work.

The length of the assignment must be no more than 4000 words. Marks will be deducted from assignments that exceed the word limit.

This document consists of **3** printed pages.

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International Examinations

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Information Systems Management – Core Module

Title: Managing in the Knowledge Economy

Before starting this assignment it is important to familiarise yourself with the module syllabus and the associated objectives and competence criteria so that your understanding and application of them will be a feature of your submitted report.

For this assignment you should work with your own organisation or one that is familiar to you. Briefly describe the organisation, its purpose, products and/or services and the department or project you work for (or the department/project you have selected) and your involvement with it.

Briefly explain how managing information has become increasingly important in recent years and the way in which technology has influenced the way in which organisations manage information. Explore the security and protection risks that technology has brought about and how organisations can minimise these.

Making use of academic literature, explain what is meant by 'information systems'. Explain the components of systems and the concept of hierarchy. Explain the concept of sub-systems and integration, and describe the benefits that each of these bring to organisations.

Briefly describe the information that is regularly managed in your department or project and describe how this is used to make decisions at different levels. Distinguish between data, information and knowledge both conceptually and in relation to your department or project.

Describe the systems which your department or project uses for managing information and knowledge. Explain how these systems contribute to the overall Management Information System (MIS) of your organisation and explain how security and protection issues are addressed.

Carry out research to identify best practice for information systems and explain how information systems can contribute to the achievement of strategic objectives. Critically assess the effectiveness of the information systems in your department or project. Your assessment must consider issues of efficiency, capacity, knowledge equity and integration. You should also include in your assessment other issues that are important and relevant to your organisation. Summarise your findings and identify areas for improvement. This can be in the format of a needs specification.

Identify options for making the improvements to your information systems. Evaluate the options and select the most appropriate based on suitability, the ability of the organisation to make the changes and a cost benefit analysis.

Develop an action plan for the changes, including methods for monitoring and evaluation.

Write a proposal to an appropriate senior manager outlining your plan of action and explaining why you are making these recommendations.

You must include in your assignment report all documentation, notes and materials generated during each stage of the study.

You are not expected to include confidential information on your organisation, its personnel or performance.

In writing the report, you should adopt an appropriate business format and show how knowledge and understanding of information systems management have been applied in line with the module syllabus. You should include in your report your research methodology.

At the start of your assignment report, indicate the number of words used, which must not exceed the maximum permitted amount of 4000.