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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

279 0112 ZA

BSc degrees and Diplomas for Graduates in Economics, Management, Finance and the Social Sciences, the Diploma in Economics and Access Route for Students in the External Programme

Sociology of Information Systems (half unit)

Tuesday, 30 May 2006 : 10.00am to 12.00noon

Candidates should answer **TWO** of the following **FIVE** questions. All questions carry equal marks.

PLEASE TURN OVER

1. Explain how the under-determination of data can result in 'the experimenter's regress'.
Use these notions to explain why a problematic system might be caused by a poor design **or** a poor implementation process.
2. Explain, using a brief example, the role of rhythm in understanding time.
What issues might organisational rhythm introduce to the implementation of a new computer based system? Illustrate your answer with an example.
3. Explain what actor-network theory means by the symmetry principle. Use examples to illustrate your answer.
What practical issues may limit the use of this notion in analysing information systems activities?
4. Explain what Lucy Suchman means when she argues that plans are, at best, seen as an artefact for reasoning about action but not as a generative mechanism for action.
How do you believe these ideas could impact the process of strategic planning?
5. In what ways is the process of rule-following related to particular forms-of-life?
How can system developers ensure that systems based on established norms and conventions are understandable and usable by different social groups?

END OF PAPER

