

OCR Computer Science A Level

1.5.1 Computing related legislation

Concise Notes



Specification:

1.5.1 a)

- The Data Protection Act 1998

1.5.1 b)

- The Computer Misuse Act 1990

1.5.1 c)

- The Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988

1.5.1 d)

- The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000



The Data Protection Act 1998

- Applies to information stored both on **computers** and in **organised paper filing systems**
- Covers **personal data**
 - Any data which can be used to identify a **living person**
 - And data which can be used **in combination with other data** to identify a living person
- An individual who can be identified by personal data is called a **data subject**
- The Act protects data subjects in **eight specific ways**:
 1. *Personal data shall be processed fairly and lawfully*
 2. *Personal data shall be obtained only for one or more specified and lawful purpose*
 3. *Personal data shall be adequate, relevant and not excessive for its purpose(s)*
 4. *Personal data shall be accurate and where necessary kept up to date*
 5. *Personal data shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for its purpose(s)*
 6. *Personal data shall be processed in accordance with the rights of data subjects under this Act*
 7. *Appropriate technical and organisational measures shall be taken against unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data*
 8. *Personal data shall not be transferred to a country or territory outside the European Economic Area, unless that country or territory ensures an adequate level of data protection*
- The Act gives data subjects certain **rights**
- The right to **request a copy** of the data held about them
- The right to **correct the data** held about them
- The right to **prevent marketing** using contact details provided by the data subject
- As of 2018, The Act has been replaced



The Computer Misuse Act 1990

- Concerns the [malicious use of computers](#)
- Originally created to ensure that computer hacking was covered by law
- Has since been frequently [updated](#)
- Three primary offences:
 1. *Unauthorised access to computer materials.*
 2. *Unauthorised access with intent to commit further offences.*
 3. *Unauthorised modification of computer material.*

The Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988

- Brought in to [protect people's property](#) online
- Covers works like logos and music recordings
- Copyright [automatically applies to original works](#)
- Copyright doesn't expire until [25-70 years after the death of the creator](#), depending on the type of work
- The Act was extended in 1992 to include [computer programs](#)

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

- Covers [investigation](#) and [surveillance](#) by [public bodies](#)
- Enforces [internet service providers](#) and [mobile phone companies](#) to give up information upon request from an authorised authority
- Ensures that ISP's networks have sufficient hardware installed to [facilitate surveillance](#)
- Particularly controversial as [its powers extend to small agencies](#) like local councils
- Some people feel that the Act is an [invasion of privacy](#)
- Some people feel that the Act is often [improperly used](#)

