

Definitions and Concepts for OCR Computer Science A-level

Component 1.5: Legal, Moral, Cultural and Ethical Issues

1.5.1 Computing Related Legislation

The Computer Misuse Act 1990: Legislation by the UK Parliament to prevent unauthorised access of data by recognising and defining electronic vandalism, unauthorised access or modification to computer systems and information theft.

The Copyright Design and Patents Act 1988: Legislation by the UK Parliament which prevents the illegal copying or redistribution of literary, dramatic, musical or artistic works by establishing that copyright exists until 70 years after the passing of the creator or 70 years after the creation of the work if the creator is unknown.

The Data Protection Act 1998: Legislation by the UK Parliament which requires secure, accurate and concise storage of personal data (both on computer and paper systems) to protect individuals from any unreasonable use of their data.

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000: Legislation by the UK Parliament to regulate the power of public bodies to carry out surveillance and investigation, and covering the interception of communication.

1.5.2 Moral and Ethical Issues

Artificial Intelligence: The capability of a machine to perceive its environment and take the appropriate steps to maximise the success of its programmed goals.

Internet Censorship: The suppression or control of content that can be accessed, viewed or published on the internet.

Piracy: The illegal access or use of copyrighted work without the permission of the copyright holder.

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