

# Pearson Edexcel GCE

## Applied Information and Communication Technology Unit 9: Communications and Networks

May 2014

**Scenario**

Paper Reference

**6959/01**

The scenario should be distributed to candidates at least three working weeks before the examination.

Note: There are **no** practice files for this examination.

This scenario should be used for the purposes of preparing candidates for the examination. This copy **must not** be taken into the examination. The information contained in the scenario will be included in the examination paper.

Further details are in the Instructions for the Conduct of Examinations (ICE), available from the Edexcel website for this qualification.

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## Scenario

### Bankside College

Bankside College is a school for 800 pupils aged from 11 to 18. It was founded by a Victorian philanthropist and is housed in a building that was built in 1876. Extra wings were added as the school grew and a separate classroom block was constructed in the 1980s. The layout of the school is shown in the diagram at the end of the scenario.

The Information Technology (IT) department occupies a few rooms in the main building. The department is very short of space and much of the network is showing its age.

The school governors have been aware of the situation for some time and have been raising money for a new Technology block. The block is currently under construction and is scheduled for completion in December this year. The IT department will share the new block with the Design and Technology (D&T) department. Both departments will get new equipment and improvements will also be made to IT provision in the rest of the school. This includes a scheme to equip all staff and pupils with some form of mobile computing device.

Unfortunately, a number of problems have arisen.

The Head of IT is suffering from arthritis and is in urgent need of surgery to replace both knee joints. He has been scheduled for a first operation in early November and has been told that the whole process could take up to a year. He was due to retire in three years time but has now decided to take early retirement at the end of October. The governors expect to appoint a new Head of IT to start in January.

The Network Manager has recently announced that she is delighted to have become pregnant. She will take maternity leave from the end of November. At this stage she is unsure if she will return to work afterwards. She has two IT technicians working for her who also look after the D&T equipment. They pride themselves on being able to fix anything that has a plug attached and are happy to be involved with running the new system. Neither of them wants to take on a managerial role.

There is a squeeze on finances. This is nothing unusual but the governors are under pressure to keep costs down.

The governors have decided to take a fresh look at the project. They have formed an IT committee, chaired by the Deputy Headteacher, Ms. Aileen MacAllister. The committee members are effective users of IT but have been chosen more for their commercial and management expertise than their technical knowledge.

The current Head of IT and the Network Manager have provided a briefing on the current system. They both feel that a new person should be hired as a technical adviser to the committee. You are the new person. You will report to Aileen and provide documents to inform and assist the committee in making their decisions.

## Briefing on current system

The Bankside LAN has two sub-domains, Admin and Teaching. These have their own domain controllers, running Server 2003. Both domain controllers are in the IT department. Each sub-domain has a network attached storage (NAS) device and several networked printers.

The Teaching sub-domain services the IT and D&T departments. It has 80 computers in the IT department, arranged in three classrooms. There are a further 10 computers in the D&T department. All of the Teaching computers use Windows XP. The departments make minor purchasing decisions, such as replacing a dead computer.

The Teaching sub-domain computers are scheduled for complete replacement, although some may be reused elsewhere. The governors make major purchasing decisions such as this.

The Admin sub-domain contains all the other computers in Bankside College. These include those in the administration offices, the staffroom, staff offices and anywhere else where computers have been set up over the years. The Admin computers vary in make, age and specification. They use Windows 7, Vista or XP and are replaced or added to when the need arises. The Head of IT and the Network Manager give advice but purchasing decisions are made by the School Bursar.

