Legal Implications of Using the Internet

5.5 Follow relevant laws, guidelines and procedures for the use of the Internet

Task 1: the give the boxes a title to show each of the following Laws:

**Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988**

**The Computer Misuse Act**

**The Communications Acts 200**

**The Data Protection Act 1998**

This act deals with abuses of telecommunication (phone lines, Wi-Fi, mobile phone network), television, broadcasting and postal services. Offences related to Computing are listed below:

* Dishonestly obtaining electronic communication services (using someone’s Wi-Fi/cloning)
* Possession of equipment used to dishonestly obtain communication services
* Improper use of public electronic communications network

It gives the creators of literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works the right to control the ways in which their material may be used. The rights cover:

*Broadcast and public performance, copying, adapting, issuing, renting and lending copies to the public.*

In many cases, the creator will also have the right to be identified as the author and to object to distortions of his work.

Names, titles, short phrases and colours are not generally considered unique or substantial enough to be covered, but a creation, such as a logo, that combines these elements may be.

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The data protection Act was first introduced to protect the rights of anybody who has their personal information stored on a computer system. It follow 8 principles:

1. *Data is processed fairly and lawfully*
2. *Data is obtained for specified and lawful purposes*
3. *Data stored is adequate, relevant and not excessive*
4. *Data is always accurate and up to date.*
5. *Data is not kept longer than necessary*
6. *Data is processed in accordance with the data subjects rights*
7. *Data is securely stored*
8. *Data is not transferred to another country without similar data protection legislation.*

This legislation makes it illegal to misuse computers to perform the following actions:

1. Unauthorised access to computer material (having)
2. Unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences (selling data/fraud)
3. Unauthorised acts with intent to impair the operation of computer systems (viruses)

Task 2: Answer the following questions for each of the scenarios given:

* Has a law has been broken?
* Which Act has been broken?
* Explain what aspect of the Act has been broken.

1. Steve has ‘chipped’ his Sky HD box so he doesn’t have to pay for movies or sport.
2. The owners of Rockbuster Video are reviewing their computer records of the last 15 years and discover account details of customers who have not been video club members for 10 years.
3. John has downloaded a copy of the new Hobbit film from the Internet. He makes several copies and sells them to the public at a car boot sale.
4. Tracy is on holiday in London. While sitting in her holiday home she connects to the neighbour’s unlocked Wi-Fi connection.

E) David knows his friend’s Facebook login details. He logs in and adds inappropriate comments on his friend’s page causing him to be banned by Facebook.