Past Papers Questions:

Section 3.6: Databases

May/June 2002

October/November 2002

May/June 2003

October / November 2003

May/June 2004

1 (a) In relation to databases, describe what is meant by each of the following terms.
(i) Primary key. [1]
(ii) Secondary key. [1]
(iii) Foreign key. [1]

(b) Using, as an example, the database of student records in a school,
(i) explain why different users should be given different access rights; [4]
(ii) describe how these access rights can be implemented. [4]

October/November 2004

May/June 2005

October/November 2005

1 (a) Explain what is meant by a flat file. [2]
(b) Describe three advantages of using a relational database over flat files. [6]

May/June 2006

7 A health centre employs doctors, nurses and receptionists.
The data that is stored about the patients includes their medical history and personal information about them.
Explain the need for maintaining privacy of the data and describe methods by which the database management system (DBMS) can help to achieve this. [6]

October/November 2006

2 (a) State what is meant by the terms:
(i) primary key,
(ii) secondary key,
(iii) foreign key
in the context of a table in a relational database. [3]

(b) State three advantages of using a relational database rather than a set of flat files. [3]

May/June 2007

11 (a) The structure of a database management system (DBMS) consists of three levels;

- External level,
- Conceptual level,
- Internal level.

State the meaning of each of these levels. [3]

(b) Describe the purpose of the following:

(i) the data description language (DDL), [2]

(ii) the data manipulation language (DML). [2]

October/November 2007

May/June 2008

1 (a) Explain what is meant by a flat file. [3]

(b) Explain the advantages of using a relational database rather than flat files. [6]