DSST® MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

EXAM INFORMATION
This exam was developed to enable schools to award credit to students for knowledge equivalent to that learned by students taking the course. The exam tests the knowledge of telecommunications; network security; systems analysis and design; business decision making; knowledge management; data warehousing; and data mining.

The exam contains 100 questions to be answered in 2 hours.

EXAM CONTENT OUTLINE
The following is an outline of the content areas covered in the examination. The approximate percentage of the examination devoted to each content area is also noted.

I. Computer Hardware – 9%
   a. History and evolution
   b. Terminology
   c. Hardware components
   d. Hardware devices

II. Computer Software – 10%
   a. History and evolution of computer software and programming
   b. Terminology
   c. Types of software

III. Telecommunications and Networks – 13%
   a. Terminology
   b. Strategic importance to the enterprise
   c. Components of telecommunications and networks
   d. Network security
   e. Topology and protocols

IV. Business Information Systems – 15%
   a. Electronics commerce
   b. Types of information systems
   c. Enterprise resource planning, customer relationship management, supply chain management systems

V. Systems Analysis and Design – 14%
   a. Characteristics of a system
   b. Systems architecture
   c. Systems development life cycle

VI. Managing Data Resources – 15%
   a. Data models
   b. Database management systems
   c. Data query and update

VII. Business Decision Making – 10%
   a. Knowledge management
   b. Data warehousing
   c. Data mining

VIII. MIS and the Organization – 5%
   a. Organization of MIS
   b. Relationships of MIS to the enterprise
   c. Value of the MIS function

IX. MIS Issues – 5%
   a. Security
   b. Ethics
   c. Privacy
   d. Global issues

REFERENCES
Below is a list of reference publications that were either used as a reference to create the exam, or were used as textbooks in college courses of the same or similar title at the time the test was developed. You may reference either the current edition of these titles or textbooks currently used at a local college or university for the same class title. It is recommended that you reference more than one textbook on the topics outlined in this fact sheet. You should begin by checking textbook content against the content outline provided before selecting textbooks that cover the test content from which to study.

Sources for study material are suggested but not limited to the following:


SAMPLE QUESTIONS
All test questions are in a multiple-choice format, with one correct answer and three incorrect options. These are samples of the types of questions that may appear on the exam. Other sample questions can be found in the form of practice exams by visiting our website at...

1. A computer-based information system consists of which of the following elements?
   a. Computers, keyboards, display monitors, hard disks, and printers
   b. People, procedures, data, programs, and computers
   c. Input, processing, storage, and output
   d. Planning, programming, organizing, and evaluating

2. Which of the following characteristics of a system reflects the fact that all systems are comprised of subsystems?
   a. Synergy
   b. Differentiation
   c. Regulation
   d. Hierarchy

3. The process by which workers develop their own applications, with or without the help of professional MIS staff, is called
   a. decentralized computing
   b. distributed computing
   c. end-user computing
   d. client/server computing

4. A database management system must include which of the following components?
   I. A data definition language
   II. A data manipulation language
   III. A data dictionary
   IV. A data redundancy protocol
   a. I only
   b. I and II only
   c. I, II, and III only
   d. I, II, III, and IV

5. Which of the following is NOT a benefit of electronic data interchange (EDI)?
   a. It reduces errors
   b. It reduces the volume of invoices or orders
   c. It reduces transaction processing costs
   d. It saves time

6. Which of the following terms is used to describe the transmission of data one character at a time?
   a. Synchronous
   b. Asynchronous
   c. Half-duplex
   d. Full-duplex

7. Multiplexors and concentrators are used in telecommunication systems to do which of the following?
   a. Perform high-speed arithmetic operations
   b. Increase utilization of the communication lines
   c. Store and retrieve data
   d. Display data on the monitor

8. Which of the following systems development approaches involves a highly iterative process of building, using, evaluating, and refining?
   a. System development life cycle (SDLC)
   b. Top-down analysis (TDA)
   c. Prototyping
   d. Critical-path analysis

9. In MIS the concept of “outsourcing” can be best defined as which of the following?
   I. An option that some organizations use to control data processing costs
   II. A process of releasing an organization’s computer operations to an external vendor
   III. A data support and retrieval system that organizations can access electronically
   a. I only
   b. I and II only
   c. II and III only
   d. I, II, and III

CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS
The American Council on Education’s College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT) has evaluated the DSST test development process and content of this exam. It has made the following recommendations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area or Course Equivalent</th>
<th>Management Information Systems</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>Lower-level baccalaureate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of Credit</td>
<td>Three (3) semester hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Score</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>American Council on Education – College Credit Recommendation Service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answers to sample questions: 1-B; 2-D; 3-C; 4-C; 5-B; 6-B; 7-B; 8-C; 9-B.