

MBA Comp Exam Questions AY 2026-2027 – IST 6090

Question #1:

In *Adventures of an IT Leader* Jim Barton arrives as a new CIO with limited IT experience but strong business acumen. Drawing on the book's portrayal of Barton's first months, discuss the competencies that define effective IT leadership. How might a generative AI assistant (e.g., an LLM-based strategic advisor) augment or complicate the development of these competencies in a new CIO today?

Question #2:

In *Adventures of an IT Leader* IVK faces a major security crisis that tests Barton's leadership. Drawing on the crisis and its aftermath in the book, discuss how AI changes the threat landscape for CIOs today. Specifically, address: (a) how AI enables more sophisticated cyberattacks (e.g., AI-generated phishing, deepfakes, autonomous malware), and (b) how AI defensive tools can assist in threat detection and incident response. What does the book's crisis teach us about the human dimension of cybersecurity that no AI tool can replace?

Question #3:

Adventures of an IT Leader devote significant attention to talent management, recruiting, retaining, and developing IT professionals. AI is disrupting the IT talent market by automating some technical roles while creating urgent demand for new skills. As a CIO advising an MBA class, what talent strategy would you recommend for an IT department navigating this transition? Address upskilling, hiring, and culture.