6 Further Java (ACR)

(a) Describe the operation of wait() and notifyAll(). Ensure that your answer explains when locks are acquired and released. [5 marks]

(b) A *future* is a mechanism to store the eventual result of a computation done in another thread. The idea is that the computation is run asynchronously and the calling thread only blocks if it tries to use a result that hasn’t been computed yet. An example program using a future is shown below.

```java
Future<String> f = new Future<String>() {
    @Override
    public String execute() {
        // ...long running computation...
        return data;
    }

    // ... 
    String result = f.get(); // blocks if execute() unfinished

    Use wait() and notifyAll() to provide an implementation of the Future class that would work with the example program above. [10 marks]

(c) Give one potential advantage and one potential disadvantage of using notify() instead of notifyAll(). [2 marks]

(d) Would it have been beneficial to use notify() instead of notifyAll() in your implementation? Justify your answer. [3 marks]