

## 2000 Paper 8 Question 6

### Information Retrieval

Simple natural language words are very basic index keys for retrieval systems. Since the topics for which users seek to retrieve documents are often complex, it is frequently claimed that simply looking for matches on any subset of a set of submitted single-word keys is not a discriminating enough approach to retrieval.

Describe *three* different ways in which the relations between words can be defined so as to form compound index terms. You should describe in detail how each is implemented and what its advantages and disadvantages are by comparison with (a) single terms, and (b) the other two types of compound.

[6 marks for each method]

Which would you implement in a general-purpose system, and why? [2 marks]