Implications of Cloud Technologies

Task 1

(a) What is a disaster recovery policy?

A plan that a business puts in place to limit the damage caused when a disaster occurs.

(b) Below are three statements regarding disaster recovery policies. Identify which statements are true and which are false.

	True	False
1. A disaster recovery policy may define when backups are made & where they're stored.	✓	
2. Using cloud services weakens your ability to recover from a disaster.		✓
3. Cloud service providers rarely have their own disaster recovery policies.		✓

(c) Abdullah is thinking of using cloud storage in order to store the confidential financial information he keeps on his customers.

Discuss why doing this may be a serious security issue for his business.

Data stored on cloud storage is accessible over the internet. This means anyone, even people outside the business, may be able to gain access to that data and misuse it. Cloud services will have password protection and maybe multifactor authentication, but this can be easily beaten if Abdullah is not careful, such as by choosing a simple password.

If this confidential data is stolen, then Abdullah could be breaking the data protection act & receive a massive fine.

Task 2

(a) If cloud services are accessed through your browser, identify two reasons why there may still be some compatibility issues.

1. Your cloud-based software may not be compatible with the file types you have previously used for saving your documents with.

2. Apps provided by the cloud-service provider for things like setting up syncing of files, may only work on certain operating systems.

(b) Abdullah is now thinking about switching to cloud-based software to help his employees work collaboratively and remotely.

Evaluate how the maintenance of his software as well as getting up and running may be easier or more difficult after switching to cloud-based software.

Cloud-based software is usually maintained by the cloud-service provider. This includes updating the software to the latest version, backing up files and providing support. This will save Abdullah from having to pay to have his own IT

support team to support this software. This will likely be a massive cost saving for Abdullah.

It also means that Abullah will have access to much more specialised technical support than he would likely have available if it was being maintained by his own employees.

Finally, cloud-based services also often offer dedicated services to getting up and running, including things like data migration to ensure your data is compatible with the new systems.

A downside is that Abdullah may not have control as to when the maintenance is performed and so things like updates may be run during work hours which could lead to software being unavailable. This is unlikely to be an issue though as cloud services are usually designed to be always available.

Task 3

Cloud technologies can have some major impacts on the performance of computers and employees. Three of these are listed in the table below. Explain how these factors might have an impact.

Consideration	Impact
Responsiveness to User	There could be lag between when you press a key and a letter appearing in the cloud software, or slow upload/download time when syncing files.
Complexity of the Task	Complex tasks may take a long time to run on cloud services as everything will need to transfer to and from the client and server.
Available Technology	If you don't have fast broadband available then cloud services may be too slow and inefficient for your business.