

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE
COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
MAY EXAMINATIONS 2002

SUBJECT: BUSINESS INFORMATION SYSTEMS
CODE: SCS 1203

INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES

1. Answer any three questions from Section A and any two from Section B.
2. All questions carry equal marks.

Time: 3 hours

SECTION A

QUESTION ONE

- a) Define the following terms:
- (i) online processing
 - (ii) real-time processing
 - (iii) firmware
 - (iv) co-processors
 - (v) cache memory
- [5]
- b) What components make up the central processing unit of a computer and what functions do they serve. [7]
- c) How do you measure the power of a computer? [8]

QUESTION TWO

- a) What is an information system? [2]
- b) Information systems can be broadly categorised into three groups. Which are these? [6]
- c) Define and describe the fundamental characteristics of all information systems? [12]

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QUESTION THREE

- a) What is the value chain concept? [2]
- b) Give examples of how IT can support each of the activities of a value chain. [8]
- c) What competitive forces influence the profitability of an industry? Give practical examples to show how this occurs. [10]

QUESTION FOUR

- a) What is electronic marketplace? [2]
- b) What are the business uses of the Internet? [6]
- c) What applications exist on the Internet that enhances the strategic impact of the Internet on electronic commerce. [12]

SECTION B

QUESTION FIVE

- a) What function(s) does the Material Requirements Planning (MRP) system serve? [2]
- b) What are its advantages? [3]
- c) Give a detailed description of the MRP's external environment. [15]

QUESTION SIX

- a) What function(s) does an inventory control system serve? [2]
- b) Define the following terms:
 - (i) Just-in-time inventory [2]
 - (ii) Economic order quantity [2]

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- c) Give a detailed description of the inventory control system's external environment. [14]
- d) Distinguish between perishable, non-perishable and semi-perishable inventory control products. [14]

QUESTION SEVEN

- a) Give a definition of a Decision Support System (DSS). [2]
- b) Give a detailed description of the components that make up a DSS. [10]
- c) Give a practical example of a decision Support System? [5]
- d) What are the differences between DSS and Expert systems? [3]

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END OF QUESTION PAPER

GOOD LUCK!