NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND QUANTITY SURVEYING
BACHELOR OF QUANTITY SURVEYING (HONOURS) DEGREE
PART II SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS – MAY 2005

CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATES AND PRICING – AQS 2205

TIME: 3 Hours   **TOTAL MARKS:** 100

INSTRUCTIONS:

* Answer **ALL** questions.
* Calculators may be used in this examination.
* Where no information is available, logical assumptions may be used.

QUESTION 1

a) List the traditional sources of information for estimating construction works in Zimbabwe.

[5 marks]

b) Using 2 of the above-mentioned sources as examples explain the reliability of these sources of information for the purposes of estimating, paying particular attention to our local environment.

[10 marks]

c) It has been suggested by many that during hyper inflationary times, preparing estimates and projecting the anticipated final cost is a useless exercise because the costs are ever changing. Discuss.   [10 marks]

QUESTION 2

What items should one need to consider when building up the following unit rates?

a) Grade 30 concrete in trench foundations.   [7 marks]
b) 230mm brickwork.   [8 marks]
c) Hourly cost of owning and operating a JCB ¼ cubic metre diesel tractor excavator.   [10 marks]

QUESTION 3

The following are the most common methods of estimating construction works.

a) Approximate quantities.
b) Rate/m² or superficial method.

c) Unit costing.

Explain the relevance and use of these methods of estimating in our local construction industry. [25 marks]

QUESTION 4

Explain the economic factors, which greatly affect building costs in Zimbabwe. What measures can one take to mitigate the effects of these factors? [25 marks]

END OF EXAMINATION