

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**  
**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE IN LIBRARY**  
**AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**

**PART I SECOND SEMESTER AUGUST 2011**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS**

**ILI 1203: INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS**

**TIME: 3 HOURS**

**INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES**

1. Answer any four (4) questions.
  2. Each question carries 25 marks.
  3. Give equal time to all questions you choose.
  4. Importance is attached to accuracy, clarity and legible handwriting.
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- 1.1 Discuss the functions of Information Retrieval Systems (IRS). (12 marks)
  - 1.2 Describe, with the aid of a diagram, the process of information retrieval (IR). (6 marks)
  - 1.3 Explain the functions of the six sub-systems of an IRS according to Lancaster. (7 marks)
  
  - 2.1 Define the term database. (2 marks)
  - 2.2 Compare and contrast traditional databases and modern databases. (12 marks)
  - 2.3 Assess the elements that are required to run a database. (11 marks)
  
  3. Discuss the evaluation criteria for Information Retrieval Systems. (25 marks)
  
  - 4.1 Compare and contrast controlled and natural languages. (20 marks)
  - 4.2 Explain the uses of indexes in IRS. (5 marks)
  
  - 5.1 Assess the instruments that can be used in soliciting for users' information needs in IR. (15 marks)
  - 5.2 Explain why it is difficult to understand and satisfy information needs of users in an IRS. (10 marks)
  
  6. The Internet has had both a negative and positive impact on information retrieval. Discuss. (25 marks)

*END OF PAPER*