

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS EXAMINATIONS BOARD

A Committee of the Council of ICPAU

INFORMATION SYSTEMS - PAPER 8

ATC(U) EXAMINATIONS

LEVEL 11 MODEL EXAMINATION PAPER

NOVEMBER 2001

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

1. Time allowed: **3 hours**
2. Attempt **all** questions in Section A and any **four** questions in Section B.
3. Section A has **twenty** compulsory multiple-choice questions, each carrying 1.marks.
4. Section B has **six** questions and only **four** are to be attempted. Each question carries 20 marks.
5. Please read further instructions on the answer booklet.

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SECTION A

Question 1

- (i) Which of the following is an example of an operating system
 - (a) Pc Dos
 - (b) Excel 97
 - (c) Word Perfect
 - (d) Corel Draw

- (ii) The following are some of the reasons for developing an information system that is relevant to organisational objectives except,
 - (a) Coordination of organisational departments
 - (b) Need for reallocation of resources
 - (c) Need to address needs of different interest groups
 - (d) Need to acknowledge customer payments

- (iii) Which one of the following is **not** a feature of a windows operating system environment?
 - (a) Icons
 - (b) Pull down menus
 - (c) Command prompts
 - (d) Mice

- (iv) Which of the following applications can be classified as a general-purpose package?
 - (a) Stock control package
 - (b) Spreadsheet package
 - (c) Sales invoicing package
 - (d) Payroll package

- (v) Which of the following is not an impact printer?
 - (a) Dot matrix printer
 - (b) Line printer
 - (c) Ink jet printer
 - (d) Daisy wheel printer

- (vi) Which of the following is an example of an output device
- (a) Plotter
 - (b) Touch screen
 - (c) Scanner
 - (d) Joy Stick
- (vii) One advantage of a hard disk over a diskette is
- (a) Low cost
 - (b) Portability
 - (c) Low access time
 - (d) Durability
- (viii) Which of the following is an example of a fifth generation programming language?
- (a) Assembler
 - (b) COBOL
 - (c) LISP
 - (d) C++
- (ix) One of the following methods and procedures is suited for developing user-friendly software. What is it?
- (a) Testing
 - (b) Prototyping
 - (c) Maintenance
 - (d) Documentation
- (x) One of the following data control methods renders meaningless any data accessed without permission. What is it?
- (a) Feed forward control
 - (b) Feedback control
 - (c) Data audit
 - (d) Data Encryption

- (xi) Ideally, all data destined for processing should be stored in main memory so that all operations are carried at the fastest possible speed. In practice however such data is preferably stored on mass or backing storage devices because
- (a) Mass storage facilities are less costly than main memory
 - (b) Access to data stored on a device is much faster than access to data in main memory.
 - (c) It is easier to access information that is not stored in main memory
 - (d) Main memory is less portable
- (xii) Before a disk is used for storing information, it has to be prepared in a process referred to as:
- (a) Scanning
 - (b) Formatting
 - (c) Defragging
 - (d) Labelling
- (xiii) The type of programs that are permanently stored within a computer systems hardware are referred to as:
- (a) Firmware
 - (b) Software
 - (c) ROM
 - (d) Systems software.
- (xiv) Computer instructions that are permanently placed by manufacturers in a computer's ROM are an example of:
- (a) An operating system
 - (b) A utility software
 - (c) Firmware software
 - (d) An application program
- (xv) Which of the following is not true for a dot matrix printer?
- (a) It is an impact printer
 - (b) It is a relatively slow printer
 - (c) It is a quiet printer

- (d) It is a relatively cheap printer
- (xvi) which of the following is an example of an application?
- (a) Power Point
 - (b) Excel
 - (c) Windows
 - (d) Dbase III
- (xvii) A software program that detects and reports errors in a computer based information system could best be described as:
- (a) An operating system
 - (b) A utility software
 - (c) An application package
 - (d) Database management system
- (xviii) A computer based information system designed to serve users within the same housing unit using multiple terminals is called
- (a) The Internet
 - (b) A LAN
 - (c) A WAN
 - (d) A MAN
- (xix) The type of information system that handles over due purchase orders in a business entity could best be categorised as
- (a) Tactical information system
 - (b) Management information system
 - (c) Transactions processing system
 - (d) Decision support information system
- (xx) All the following have the same access method except
- (a) RAM
 - (b) Hard Disk
 - (c) Magnetic tape
 - (d) Floppy diskette

SECTION B

Question 2

- (a) Distinguish between RAM and ROM.
(6 marks)
 - (b) Explain the importance of backing storage for information.
(6 marks)
 - (c) What considerations would be made in choosing the type of backing storage for information?
(8 marks)
- (Total 20 marks)

Question 3

Briefly explain the main fact finding methods used by Systems Analysts in investigating an information system.
(20 marks)

Question 4

Describe the main steps in a typical systems development life cycle.
(20 marks)

Question 5

End-user computing which is a situation that targets users of an information and decision support system requires that users are involved extensively in the specification, development and the use of the system and its applications.

Explain the benefits and risks associated with end user computing.
(20 marks)

Question 6

In the early days of the development of computer technology, data storage was done on magnetic tapes as opposed to a recent preference for data to be stored on magnetic disks.

- (a) Describe the characteristics of magnetic disks and magnetic tapes.
(16 marks)
- (b) Explain any problems associated with storing and accessing information from magnetic disks and magnetic tapes.
(4 marks)