

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS EXAMINATIONS BOARD

A Committee of the Council of ICPAU

ATC(U) EXAMINATIONS

LEVEL 1I

INFORMATION SYSTEMS - PAPER 8

FRIDAY, 14 DECEMBER 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 mark.
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 programs is often used for performing business computations?
 - (a) Ms. Word.
 - (b) Access.
 - (c) Excel.
 - (d) Windows explorer.

- (ii) The main function of an information system is;
 - (a) Recording data.
 - (b) Functional data processing.
 - (c) Ensuring data security.
 - (d) Ensuring data privacy.

- (iii) In a computer information system, the kind of software that provides a kind of “bridge” between a user and the hardware is the:
 - (a) General purpose software.
 - (b) Applications software.
 - (c) Operating system.
 - (d) Systems software.

- (iv) Which of the following is not a characteristic of a laser printer?
 - (a) High speed.
 - (b) Cheapness.
 - (c) Slow speed.
 - (d) Noisiness.

- (v) The memory capacity of computers is measured in units known as;
 - (a) Bauds.
 - (b) Bytes.
 - (c) Sectors.
 - (d) Disks.

- (vi) The difference between ROM and RAM is that
- (a) ROM is not for storage.
 - (b) RAM is volatile.
 - (c) RAM is a software.
 - (d) ROM is a for temporary storage.
- (vii) A computer program could be described as user friendly if
- (a) It is cheap.
 - (b) It has user prompts.
 - (c) It is erasable when required.
 - (d) It is command based.
- (viii) Computer based information applications designed to work very fast with short response times are known as:
- (a) Real time applications
 - (b) Application packages
 - (c) Demand driven applications
 - (d) Specialist packages
- (ix) Computer based information systems can be protected from virus attacks through the use of:
- (a) Security guards.
 - (b) Firewalls.
 - (c) Passwords.
 - (d) User-cards.
- (x) Which of the following is an example of a first generation programming language:
- (a) Machine code.
 - (b) Assembler.
 - (c) COBOL.
 - (d) BASIC.

- (xi) The following are examples of systems software except:
- (a) Operating system.
 - (b) Utility programs.
 - (c) UNIX.
 - (d) Access.
- (xii) The central processing unit of a computer hardware consists of all the following except
- (a) Control unit.
 - (b) Logical unit.
 - (c) Registers.
 - (d) Hard disk.
- (xiii) Which of the following is a common operating system for personal computers?
- (a) Ms Word.
 - (b) Dbase.
 - (c) Lotus.
 - (d) MS DOS.
- (xiv) Which of the following is both an input and output device of a computer?
- (a) Track ball.
 - (b) Keyboard.
 - (c) Visual display unit.
 - (d) Printer.
- (xv) One advantage of storing computer based data on a diskette instead of a hard disk is:
- (a) High access speed.
 - (b) Security.
 - (c) High storage capacity.
 - (d) Portability.

- (xvi) One of the ways of ensuring continuity in an organisation inspite of high labour turnover in the information technology department is to ensure:
- (a) Regular training.
 - (b) Timely computer servicing.
 - (c) Systems documentation.
 - (d) Effective recruitment.
- (xvii) Tactical business information systems often focus on one of the following. What is it?
- (a) Long term objectives.
 - (b) Environmental concerns.
 - (c) Internal operations and control.
 - (d) Medium term forecasting and planning.
- (xviii) Which of the following statements is correct?
- (a) The types of business decisions that are good candidates for automation are the structured ones.
 - (b) Executive business decisions are governed by clear rules and hence can easily be automated.
 - (c) Tactical business decisions require that one is equipped with long-range organisational goals.
 - (d) Efficient business management requires that top executives establish an information system that monitors the daily business transactions.
- (xix) A forecast of demand for saloon services offered by a hair saloon business organisation is an example of information that is categorised as:
- (a) Strategic
 - (b) Tactical
 - (c) Operational
 - (d) Expert
- (xx) A program that tracks road side parking fees defaulters is an example of software that is referred to as:
- (a) A systems software
 - (b) An application software
 - (c) A security software
 - (d) A spread sheet software

SECTION B

Question 2

(a) Define the following terms as used in information systems:

- (i) Data.
- (ii) Information.

(5 marks)

(b) Explain the importance of information to an organisation.

(15 marks)

(Total 20 marks)

Question 3

(a) Describe three main types of information systems that correspond to three levels of organisational management and briefly show why each type is important.

(12 marks)

(b) Briefly explain why computerised information systems that target top executives of business organisations are still relatively underdeveloped.

(8 marks)

(Total 20 marks)

Question 4

Explain the advantages and shortcomings of processing business information using computer-based technology

(20 marks)

Question 5

(a) Explain what you understand by the phrase “distributed systems” as used in business information systems.

(2 marks)

(b) What benefits would accrue to an organisation if its information system were distributed?

(18 marks)

(Total 20 marks)

Question 6

In regard to a computerised information system, explain what you understand by the following

- (a) Visual display unit. (4 marks)
- (b) Application software. (4 marks)
- (c) Real time processing. (4 marks)
- (d) Multi-user environment. (4 marks)
- (e) Operating system. (4 marks)

(Total 20 marks)