

# THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS EXAMINATIONS BOARD

*A Committee of the Council of ICPAU*

## ATC(U) EXAMINATIONS

### LEVEL TWO

#### INFORMATION SYSTEMS – PAPER 8

**TUESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2003**

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

## SECTION A

### Question 1

- (i) Disaster recovery in companies helps to:
  - (a) Maintain copies of important data on behalf of an organization.
  - (b) Store magnetic tape and magnetic disk.
  - (c) Convert printed documents into recovered electronic format.
  - (d) Discover their disaster prevention.
- (ii) Elapsed time refers to the:
  - (a) Period when information exchanges from one organization to another.
  - (b) Total amount of work that needs to occur to complete a task.
  - (c) Duration the task will take to be completed.
  - (d) Costs required to develop a system.
- (iii) Electronic Data interchange refers to:
  - (a) A system that converts a document into digital format.
  - (b) Automated digital transmission of money between organizations and banks.
  - (c) Exchange of information between businesses using a wide area network.
  - (d) Transactions of goods and services over the internet.
- (iv) Hypertext Markup Language is used to:
  - (a) Highlight words that represent links to other internet documents.
  - (b) Create web pages and documents.
  - (c) Store a series of objects which can include text.
  - (d) In the same way as a writing pad.
- (v) Benchmark describes the process of:
  - (a) Testing the resources available to a company.
  - (b) Testing defects caused by human error during programming.
  - (c) Testing performance of computer equipment.
  - (d) Developing programs by computer professionals.
- (vi) Which of the following is not a method of system changeover?
  - (i) Phased.
  - (ii) Progressive.
  - (iii) Direct.
  - (iv) Parallel
  - (v) Immediate.
  - (a) (ii, (iii) and (v).
  - (b) (ii) and v).
  - (c) (ii).
  - (d) None.

- (vii) A dongle describes:
- (a) A device similar to CD-ROM or DVD.
  - (b) A hardware device used to prevent unauthorized copies of a program being made.
  - (c) A method of ensuring privacy over the internet.
  - (d) Secondary data that can be held on DVD.
- (viii) Which of the following is not associated with software?
- (i) Command line interpreter.
  - (ii) Graphical user interface.
  - (iii) Network operating system.
  - (iii) Operating environment.
  - (iv) Operating system.
- (a) (i), (ii) and (iv).
  - (b) (i), (iii) and (iv).
  - (c) (i), (iii), (iii) and (iv).
  - (d) None.
- (ix) Which of the following are features of a spreadsheet?
- (i) Worksheets and cells.
  - (ii) Functions.
  - (iii) Database files.
  - (iv) Tables and records.
  - (v) Charts.
- (a) (iii), (iv) and (v).
  - (b) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v).
  - (c) (i),(ii) and (v).
  - (d) (ii), (iii) and (iv).
- (x) Which of the following is not a characteristic of an open system?
- (a) Components work towards a collective goal.
  - (b) They operate in complete isolation.
  - (c) They can be complex.
  - (d) Linkage between subsystems varies.
- (xi) Business information systems rely on the following resources:
- (a) People, hardware, software, communication and data.
  - (b) People, input, controls, customers and capital.
  - (c) People, capital, computers, information and time.
  - (d) Hardware, software, inputs, customer and capital.

- (xii) Magnetic Ink Character Recognition is:
- (a) A combination of several media controlled by an interactive program.
  - (b) The facility to recognize control of computer programs.
  - (c) Capturing data printed using special magnetic tape.
  - (d) A data entry means to ensure the magnetic ink is recognized.
- (xiii) Structured query language:
- (a) Provides a standardized method for retrieving information from databases.
  - (b) Contains a number of tools designed to structure data.
  - (c) Extracts data structured queries according to user specifications.
  - (d) Allows users to store, organize and retrieve personal information.
- (xiv) Which of the following is not a method of control in information systems?
- (a) Password.
  - (b) Encryption.
  - (c) Backup procedures.
  - (d) Software license.
- (xv) Access time refers to:
- (a) Time taken in processing a workload of a system.
  - (b) Time taken for the system to regulate its performance.
  - (c) Time taken to locate a specific item of data.
  - (d) Time taken to access data without losing some other information.
- (xvi) Which of following describes a database?
- (a) Storage devices for data records.
  - (b) Collection devices for holding information.
  - (c) Collection of related information.
  - (d) Base for data validation.
- (xvii) Which of the following is correct about Local Area Networks?
- (a) Can connect two or more computers between businesses.
  - (b) Span a limited geographical region like an office or building.
  - (c) Connect businesses in different parts of the city.
  - (d) None of the above.
- (xviii) A firewall is a specialized software designed to:
- (a) Mount on a server at a point where the computer is connected to the Internet.
  - (b) Provide a business application on a server to a remote user.
  - (c) Move between one website page and another.
  - (d) Store and present web pages accessed by web browsers.

- (xix) Real time processing involves:
- (a) Processing many transactions in sequence of real time.
  - (b) Processing which occurs immediately data is collected.
  - (c) Processing in an ordered sequence of real time.
  - (d) Processing access files without any delay.
- (xx) The memory of a computer is used to:
- (a) Store data permanently on the hard disk.
  - (b) Store data and instructions temporarily.
  - (c) Process data warehouses.
  - (d) Process instructions and control data.

## SECTION B

### Question 2

- (a) An organization is considering changing from a manual information system to a computerized one.
- (i) Give three advantages that can arise. **(6 marks)**
  - (ii) Give three disadvantages of such a change. **(6 marks)**
- (b) What is meant by gradual changeover in information systems? **(4 marks)**
- (c) Give any two factors that can influence the choice of changeover method. **(4 marks)**
- (Total 20 marks)**

### Question 3

- (a) (i) What do you understand by end-user computing? **(2 marks)**
- (ii) Give any two factors which lead to end-user computing? **(2 marks)**
- (iii) Give two dangers of end user computing. **(2 marks)**
- (b) (i) Give three reasons why systems fail. **(6 marks)**
- (ii) Give two ways of measuring the success or failure of systems. **(4 marks)**
- (iii) Mention two factors that can be used to reduce system failure. **(4 marks)**
- (Total 20 marks)**

**Question 4**

- (a) Explain three methods that may be used to acquire computers in an organization. Give one advantage of each method. (9 marks)
  - (b) Give any three factors that affect software acquisition. (6 marks)
  - (c) Briefly explain Bespoke software development and give the problems it can cause in an organization. (5 marks)
- (Total 20 marks)**

**Question 5**

Write brief notes on the following:

- (a) An adaptive system. (4 marks)
  - (b) Decoupled system. (4 marks)
  - (c) Negative feedback. (4 marks)
  - (d) Closed system. (4 marks)
  - (e) Interdependence of systems. (4 marks)
- (Total 20 marks)**

**Question 6**

- (a) What does the term e-mail mean? (2 marks)
  - (b) Give two advantages of e-mail. (2 marks)
  - (c) Give two disadvantages of email. (2 marks)
  - (d) Briefly explain the concept of e-business. (2 marks)
  - (e) Give any two benefits of e-business. (4 marks)
  - (f) Explain the following:
    - (i) Office automation system. (2 marks)
    - (ii) System cracker. (2 marks)
    - (iii) Computer virus. (2 marks)
    - (iv) Encrytion (2 marks)
- (Total 20 marks)**

**Question 7**

- (a) The Internet and World Wide Web are terms which are frequently associated with access to information.
    - (i) What do you understand by the term internet? (2 marks)
    - (ii) Give three benefits of internet access. (6 marks)
    - (iii) Give three dangers of internet access. (6 marks)
  - (b) Briefly explain each of the following terms:
    - (i) Wide Area Network. (2 marks)
    - (ii) Web Server. (2 marks)
    - (iii) Web Directories. (2 marks)
- (Total 20 marks)**