

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS EXAMINATIONS BOARD

A Committee of the Council of ICPAU

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – PAPER 5 (I)

CPA (U) EXAMINATIONS

WEDNESDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2002

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes.
2. Attempt all questions in Section A and any three questions from Section B.
3. Section A has ten compulsory questions each carrying 1½ marks.
4. Section B has five questions and only three questions are to be attempted.
Each question carries 15 marks.
5. Please read further instructions on the answer book.

SECTION A

Question 1

- (i) Which of the following applications is used to perform “what if” analysis?
 - (a) Excel.
 - (b) Ms Word.
 - (c) Access.
 - (d) MS DOS.
- (ii) All the following devices have the same access mode except:
 - (a) Hard disks.
 - (b) Floppy disks.
 - (c) Random Access Memory.
 - (d) Magnetic tapes.
- (iii) One of the ways of improving internationally networked computer systems' security is to:
 - (a) Provide servers.
 - (b) Use firewalls.
 - (c) Avoid use of diskettes.
 - (d) Employ security guards.
- (iv) All the following are components of a computer system except:
 - (a) Hardware.
 - (b) Scanners.
 - (c) Software.
 - (d) End users.
- (v) Which of the following printer types is associated with high – speed printing?
 - (a) Ink jet.
 - (b) Laser jet.
 - (c) Dot matrix.
 - (d) Line printer.
- (vi) The units for measuring the storage capacity of computer devices are:
 - (a) Inches.
 - (b) Sectors.
 - (c) Bytes.
 - (d) Tracks.

- (vii) One of the advantages of storing data on a secondary device rather than in primary storage is:
- (a) Permanency.
 - (b) Randomness in access.
 - (c) Erasability.
 - (d) Orderly retrieval.
- (viii) One main difference between DOS and a windows operating system is that:
- (a) DOS is a graphic user interface.
 - (b) Windows is a multi tasking system.
 - (c) DOS is used on LAN servers.
 - (d) Windows is easier to use.
- (ix) One of the differences between a file and a database is that:
- (a) File records are not duplicated.
 - (b) Accessing file records is random while database records are accessed sequentially.
 - (c) Databases have minimal redundancy.
 - (d) Databases are carefully designed.
- (x) Which one of the following is an example of a fourth generation programming language?
- (a) C.
 - (b) SQL.
 - (c) BASIC.
 - (d) COBOL.

SECTION B

Question 2

Recent trends in computer programming are characterised by increased dependence on Fourth Generation Languages (4GLs) by a number of business organisations.

- (a) Explain the main advantages associated with the use of 4GLs. (9 marks)
 - (b) What limitations are associated with 4GLs? (6 marks)
- (Total 15 marks)**

Question 3

In spite of the fact that “off the shelf” software is dissatisfying due to inability to meet specific end user demands, it is still the most sought after software especially by small and medium businesses.

Required:

Explain the benefits of using “off- the shelf” software over “tailor- made” software. (15 marks)

Question 4

- (a) Distinguish between a computer system and an information system. (3 marks)
 - (b) What are the main considerations in adopting a certain type of computer information system? (12 marks)
- (Total 15 marks)**

Question 5

Explain the main stages involved in a business systems development life cycle. (15 marks)

Question 6

Discuss the benefits that a business would enjoy if its computer based information system is distributed rather than centralised. (15 marks)