

**INFORMATION SYSTEMS – PAPER 8****1.0 General Performance**

- There was a tremendous improvement in performance; the pass rate was 91.21% up from 46.15% in the previous sitting.
- Candidates were generally knowledgeable in most areas of the subject and well prepared for the examination.

**2.0 PERFORMANCE IN INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS****2.1 Question 1**

- This was a set of 20 multiple choice questions covering a wider part of the syllabus.
- Performance was averagely good for most candidates.

**2.2 Question 2**

- Required candidates to : (a) briefly describe the following terms in relation to information technology: computer system, point-of-sale terminal, transaction processing and prototyping; (b) distinguish between: data backup and data archiving; decision support system and artificial intelligence; bespoke software and off-the-shelf package; real-time computing and batch processing; data validation and data verification.
- More than half of the candidates attempted this question and it was well answered.
- Part (b) of the question though, was not very well answered; candidates were not able to distinguish the terms.

**2.3 Question 3**

- Required candidates to: (a) explain what is meant by office automation and computerised control systems in the context of business and industry, (b) use suitable examples to describe how office automation is employed today in business and industry, and (c) describe how computerised control systems are applied today in business and industry, giving examples.
- 21% of the candidates attempted this question and performance was poor.
- Candidates' answers clearly indicated that this area of the syllabus had not been covered or candidates were not interested in the question.

**2.4 Question 4**

- Required candidates to: (a) describe the different types of threats to information systems in the business environment, and (b) describe the controls that organisations should put in place to safeguard information systems.
- This was a very popular question and was attempted by 93.4% of the candidates
- Overall performance was good; in fact some candidates scored all the marks allocated.
- No major weaknesses were observed.

**2.5 Question 5**

- Required candidates to: (a) describe the stages in the system development life cycle, (b) explain why testing should be regarded as a significant part of an information systems development project, and (c) identify and describe the different types of testing that may be carried out during the systems development life cycle.
- About 77% of the candidates attempted this question and the majority scored 10 or more of the 20 marks allocated.
- A few candidates though had not adequately covered this part of the syllabus. In fact the lowest score was 3 out of the 20 marks allocated.

**2.6 Question 6:**

- Required candidates to: (a) describe distributed systems and distributed computing, (b) explain the advantages of distributed systems to business, and (c) explain circumstances under which distributed systems can be disadvantageous
- About 41% attempted this question.
- Performance was above average; 81% of those who attempted the question scored 10 or more of the 20 marks allocated. Most candidates though failed part (c) of the question (explaining circumstances under which distributed systems can be disadvantageous)

**2.7 Question 7:**

- Required candidates to: (a) describe the benefits of the internet to business processes; (b) explain the shortcomings of the use of the internet in business.
- 99% of the candidates attempted this question and performance was excellent. In fact this question contributed significantly to the high pass rate in the whole paper.
- Candidates' answers showed the increasing awareness amongst society of the internet and its benefits.