

Examination No. _____

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS EXAMINATION COUNCIL
OF MALAWI

2010 EXAMINATIONS

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN PROGRAMME

PAPER TC 4: INFORMATION SYSTEMS

MONDAY 6 DECEMBER 2010

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS
2.00 PM - 5.00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS

1. You are allowed **15 minutes** reading time **before the examination begins** during which you should read the question paper and, if you wish, make annotations on the question paper. However, you are **not** allowed, **under any circumstances**, to open the answer book and start writing or use your calculator during this reading time.
2. Number of questions on paper - 8.
3. **FIVE** questions **ONLY** to be answered.
4. Each question carries 20 marks.
5. Begin each answer on a fresh page.
6. **DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL YOU ARE INSTRUCTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

This question paper contains 3 pages

This question paper must **not** be removed from the examination hall.

1. (a) Explain the meaning of the following terms as applied in information systems.
- (i) Field
 - (ii) Record
 - (iii) Block
 - (iv) File
 - (v) Transaction file

10 Marks

- (b) Describe the important activities that should take place during systems implementation to ensure a successful conversion from the existing to a new system.

10 Marks

(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)

2. The present computing system of a medium sized commercial organisation consists of several stand alone personal computers carrying out a heavy workload comprising stock control and accounting routines. You are a member of a study team that has been set up to examine the possibility of introducing a local area network (LAN).

Required:

- (i) Mention the **three** main areas/sections that you would critically look at in order to form a LAN.

3 Marks

- (ii) Prepare a list of items for each of the **three** main areas/sections which would assist prospective suppliers to assess the suitability of their LAN products.

17 Marks

(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)

3. (a) (i) Define the term 'software'.

4 Marks

- (ii) Mention **two** major categories into which software may be classified.

2 Marks

- (iii) Describe each of the **two** software categories mentioned in (ii) above.

6 Marks

- (b) What type of software are the following? Give reasons for your answer.

- (i) DOS;

- (ii) Spreadsheets.

8 Marks

(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)

Continued/.....

4. Security of data and equipment is one of the important aspects in a computer system environment.

Required:

- (a) Mention **two** measures that should be taken to secure data against each of the following:
- (i) virus;
 - (ii) corruption;
 - (iii) hacking;
 - (iv) theft;
 - (v) unauthorized access. **10 Marks**
- (b) Mention **two** measures that should be taken to secure the environment against each of the following:
- (i) power failures;
 - (ii) fire;
 - (iii) water. **6 Marks**
- (c) How would you secure your hardware against:
- (i) theft;
 - (ii) unauthorized access? **4 Marks**
- (TOTAL: 20 MARKS)**

5. A Personal Computer (PC) is a complete computer on its own. However, it can also be attached to a file server as a terminal.

Required:

- (a) Describe a computer terminal. **2 Marks**
- (b) Describe how a PC can be attached to a file server as a terminal. **8 Marks**
- (c) Mention **four** advantages of attaching a PC to a file server. **8 Marks**
- (d) What is the disadvantage of attaching a PC to a file server? **2 Marks**
- (TOTAL: 20 MARKS)**

6. Program documentation is one of the stages in software development.

Required:

- (a) Mention **eight** items that a program documentation must contain. **16 Marks**
- (b) State **four** other stages that are found in software development. **4 Marks**
- (TOTAL: 20 MARKS)**

Continued/.....

7. (a) (i) What is a spreadsheet? **4 Marks**
- (ii) Describe a range of features that you would expect to find in a typical spreadsheet package. **8 Marks**
- (b) Identify:
- (i) the potential benefits of spreadsheets to a business organisation. **4 Marks**
- (ii) the possible areas of spreadsheet use. **4 Marks**
- (TOTAL: 20 MARKS)**

8. Anybody or organisation offering any service related to computing, either as a main line of business or a sideline, can be considered as a computer bureau.

Required:

- (a) Describe any **three** types of services that are provided by a computer bureau. **6 Marks**
- (b) State **four** disadvantages of using a computer bureau. **4 Marks**
- (c) Mention **ten** steps that should be followed when selecting a computer bureau. **10 Marks**
- (TOTAL: 20 MARKS)**

END