

EXAMINATION No. _____

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS EXAMINATION
COUNCIL OF MALAWI

2013 EXAMINATIONS

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN PROGRAMME

PAPER TC 4: INFORMATION SYSTEMS

WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE 2013

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) State **two** main characteristics of a computer. **2 Marks**
- (b) What does hardware of a computer comprise of? **3 Marks**
- (c) Computer can generally be classified by size and power.

Required:

What are the **three** factors that determine the power of a computer? **3 Marks**

- (d) Describe the following:
 - (i) Personal computer; **4 Marks**
 - (ii) Mini-computer; **4 Marks**
 - (iii) Mainframe. **4 Marks**
- (TOTAL: 20 MARKS)**

2. Define the terms:

- (a) data **3 Marks**
 - (b) information **3 Marks**
 - (c) data processing **3 Marks**
 - (d) information technology **4 Marks**
 - (e) program **3 Marks**
 - (f) software items **4 Marks**
- (TOTAL: 20 MARKS)**

3. Information systems have impacted the world in different ways.

Required:

- (a) Describe **five** positive impacts of information systems. **10 Marks**
 - (b) Describe **five** negative impacts of information systems. **10 Marks**
- (TOTAL: 20 MARKS)**

4. (a) In relation to information systems:

- (i) What are computer viruses? **3 Marks**
- (ii) How are computer viruses spread? **5 Marks**
- (iii) How can you prevent viruses from infecting your computer? **4 Marks**

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- (b) (i) Describe **two** main features of fourth generation computer languages (4GLs) that make them ideal for supporting end user computing. **4 Marks**
- (ii) Mention **two** disadvantages of fourth generation computer languages. **4 Marks**
(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)
5. (a) (i) Describe a computer network. **3 Marks**
- (ii) State **two** types of networks. **2 Marks**
- (b) Mention **five** reasons why computers are networked. **5 Marks**
- (c) Describe an intranet. **5 Marks**
- (d) Why do users access the internet? **5 Marks**
(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)
6. In the context of data stored on magnetic disk, describe each of the following:
- (a) file; **4 Marks**
- (b) transaction file; **4 Marks**
- (c) master file; **4 Marks**
- (d) report file; **4 Marks**
- (e) working file. **4 Marks**
(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)
7. (a) Many organizations undertake a feasibility study before taking the decision to commit a full-scale systems development project.
- Required:**
- (i) Describe the main objectives of such a study. **4 Marks**
- (ii) Outline **three** key aspects of a feasibility study that an organization must always consider. **12 Marks**
- (b) In recent years, there have been several major advances in information technology which have led to significant changes in the way organizations conduct their businesses, and the use of the internet is contributing to the major advances.
- Required:**
- State **four** concerns that an organization would have on the development and use of the internet. **4 Marks**
(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)

8. (a) What is a computer bureau? **2 Marks**
- (b) Describe any **five** types of services that are provided by a computer bureau. **10 Marks**
- (c) Mention **four** advantages of using a computer bureau. **4 Marks**
- (d) Mention **four** disadvantages of using a computer bureau. **4 Marks**
- (TOTAL: 20 MARKS)**

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