EXAMINATION NO._____

2014 EXAMINATIONS

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN PROGRAMME

PAPER TC4: INFORMATION SYSTEMS

THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER 2014

TIME ALLOWED : 3 HOURS
2.00 - 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.

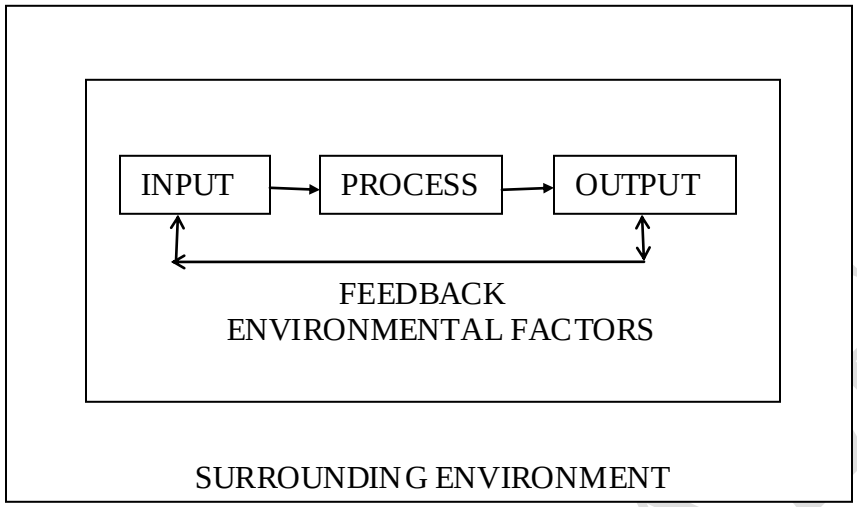
6. **DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL YOU ARE INSTRUCTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

This question paper contains 3 pages

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

NOT FOR SALE

1. (a) Study the diagram below and then answer the questions which follow it.



Required:

(i) Describe feedback as depicted in the above diagram. **3 Marks**

(ii) Name any **five** examples of environmental anchors in a business. **5 Marks**

(b) Describe a digital firm. **5 Marks**

(c) (i) Define an electronic business (e-business). **5 Marks**

(ii) Give **two** examples of the use of electronic commerce/business in Malawi. **2 Marks**

(TOTAL : 20 MARKS)

2. (a) Define data processing. **2 Marks**

(b) Define electronic data processing. **2 Marks**

(c) Mention any **four** advantages of electronic data processing. **8 Marks**

(d) Mention any **four** disadvantages of electronic data processing. **8 Marks**

(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)

Continued/……

NOT FOR SALE

3. (a) In relation to information systems, describe:

(i) a bit **2 Marks**

(ii) a byte **2 Marks**

(iii) how electronic signals are represented in a computer. **2 Marks**

(b) Every business produces a receipt to its customers.

Required:

(i) Define a receipt. **4 Marks**

(ii) List down **ten** items that appear on a receipt. **10 Marks**

(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)

4. A reporter went overseas to cover a conference. His reports of coverage were to be sent in their original format to publishing houses. Hard copies of the reports were to be kept by him. He was asked to carry a desktop computer and some peripherals from the local area network (LAN).

Required:

(a) Explain the term "peripherals". **4 Marks**

(b) What peripherals and equipment does the reporter need to carry to do his job? Explain why. **6 Marks**

(c) Explain in detail, how he would use this equipment and peripherals to produce and send the reports to publishing houses. **10 Marks**

(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)

5. RAM and ROM are terms used in electronic data processing.

Required:

(a) (i) Expand the term ROM **1 Mark**

(ii) Expand the term RAM **1 Mark**

(b) Identify **five** properties of:

(i) RAM

(ii) ROM **10 Marks**

(c) Mention **two** differences between ROM and RAM.

(d) Mention **two** similarities between ROM and RAM.

(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)

Continued/……

NOT FOR SALE

6. (a) Define the term "data integrity" in reference to security. **4 Marks**

(b) How can data integrity be maintained through:

(i) Input controls; **2 Marks**

(ii) Processing controls; **3 Marks**

(iii) Output controls; **3 Marks**

(iv) Backup controls; **4 Marks**

(v) Contingency controls? **4 Marks**

(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)

7. All computers need software and hardware to function.

Required:

(a) What is software? **3 Marks**

(b) What are the **five** functions of software? **5 Marks**

(c) Describe systems software. **4 Marks**

(d) Describe any **two** main functions of systems software. **8 Marks**

(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)

8. (a) Describe the following types of computers:

(i) Analog computer **3 Marks**

(ii) Digital computer **2 Marks**

(b) The distinction between digital and analog computers refers to data storage and transfer, as well as the internal working of an instrument and the kind of display.

Required:

State the difference between the digital and the analog computer in terms of:

(i) Data transmission; **5 Marks**

(ii) Digital display (ease of reading); **5 Marks**

(iii) Loss of accuracy of data during conversion. **5 Marks**

(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)

E N D

NOT FOR SALE