

EXAMINATION NO. _____

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS EXAMINATION
COUNCIL OF MALAWI

2012 EXAMINATIONS

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN PROGRAMME

PAPER TC 4: INFORMATION SYSTEMS

WEDNESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2012

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS
2.00 PM - 5.00 PM

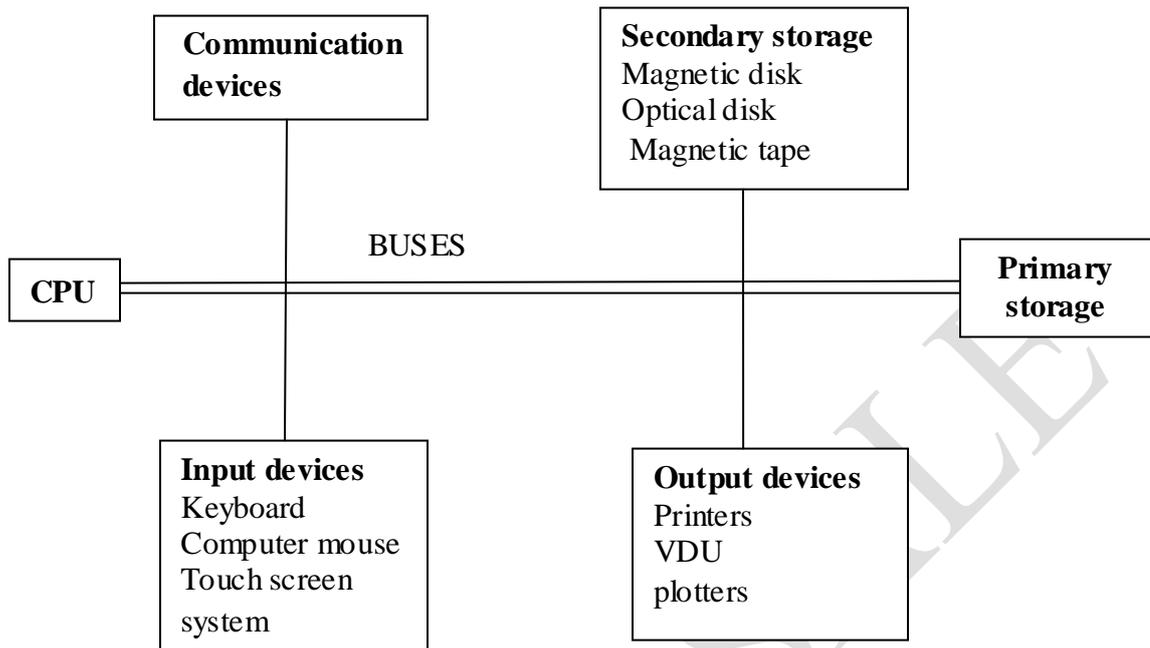
INSTRUCTIONS

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 4 pages

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

1. A computer can be described as a tool that processes data by using input – processing and output using various hardware items as illustrated in the diagram below.



Required:

State the functions of the following devices:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| (i) CPU | 3 Marks |
| (ii) Secondary storage | 3 Marks |
| (iii) Input devices | 2 Marks |
| (iv) Output devices | 3 Marks |
| (v) Communication devices | 3 Marks |
| (vi) Buses | 3 Marks |
| (vii) Primary storage | 3 Marks |
| | (TOTAL: 20 MARKS) |

2. Information is very vital to all organizations.

Required:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| (a) Define the term “good” information. | 3 Marks |
| (b) Mention five qualities of good information. | 5 Marks |
| (c) Describe four factors that make information valuable. | 12 Marks |
| | (TOTAL: 20 MARKS) |

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3. In order for information/data to flow through a computer system and to be in a form that is suitable for processing, all symbols, pictures and words must be reduced to a string of binary digits.

Required:

- (a) Describe:
- (i) a Bit **3 Marks**
 - (ii) how electronic signals are represented in the computer **3 Marks**
 - (iii) a BYTE **3 Marks**
- (b) In relation to computer storage:
- (i) How many digits form a byte? **2 Marks**
 - (ii) How many digits form a unit of storage? **1 Mark**
 - (iii) How many bytes are in:
 - (1) Kilo byte
 - (2) Mega byte
 - (3) Giga byte
 - (4) Tera byte

8 Marks
(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)

4. (a) Define the term “application software”. **3 Marks**
- (b) Define the term “spreadsheet” and illustrate your answer with a suitable example. **5 Marks**
- (c) Mention **five** major features that you would consider when selecting a spreadsheet package. **5 Marks**
- (d) Do computers require operating software to function? Give reasons for your answer. **3 Marks**
- (e) In which software group do computer viruses belong? Explain why that group. **4 Marks**

(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)

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5. (a) A large food wholesaler has a number of operational systems, some online and others batch processing, and a central corporate database. A significant effort is currently being devoted to new system developments.

You have been appointed head of a newly created internal audit section and your first task is to review various types of controls which exist within the organisation and its computer systems.

Required:

Describe what administrative controls you would be looking for in your review.

10 Marks

- (b) A decision has been made to put up a common system in your organisation to replace the three different systems currently in operation.

Required:

State **ten** factors that you should consider as you plan to put up a common system.

10 Marks

(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)

6. (a) Describe the **four** important activities that should take place during systems implementation to ensure a successful conversion from an existing system to a new one.

10 Marks

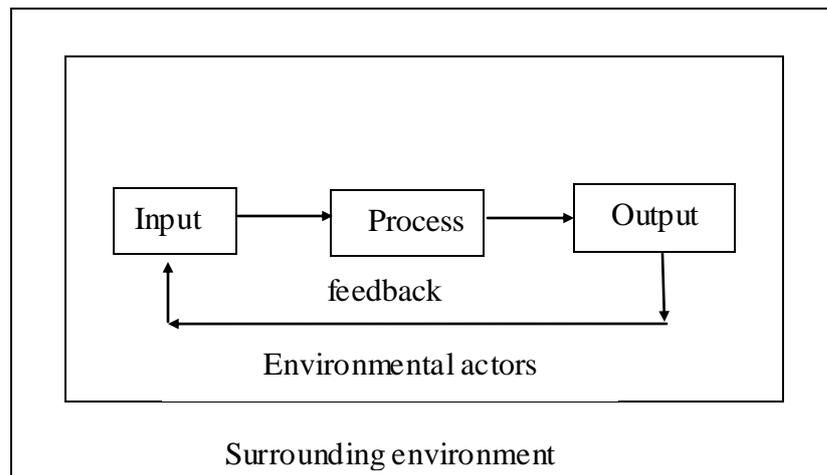
- (b) Mention and explain any **five** system development cycle stages.

10 Marks

(TOTAL : 20 MARKS)

Continued/.....

7. (a) Write a brief description of the internet and the world wide web. **5 Marks**
- (b) Define the term “globalization”. **5 Marks**
- (c) Describe a digital firm. **5 Marks**
- (d) The diagram below depicts the function of an information system.

**Required:**

- (i) Describe feedback as depicted above. **3 Marks**
- (ii) What are the environmental actors upon this feedback loop? **2 Marks**
(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)

8. Data integrity in the context of security is preserved when data is the same as that in the source documents and has not been accidentally or intentionally altered, destroyed or disclosed.

Required:

Explain how you would maintain data integrity through:

- (a) input controls. **4 Marks**
- (b) processing controls. **4 Marks**
- (c) output controls. **4 Marks**
- (e) backup controls. **4 Marks**
- (f) contingency controls. **4 Marks**
(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)

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