

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF COMMERCE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

MAIN EXAMINATION – MAY 2009

COURSE TITLE : INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS COMPUTING
COURSE CODE : BA 112 – FULLTIME and IDE
CLASS : DIPLOMA IN COMMERCE
TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF SECTION (A) AND (B)
2. SECTION (A) IS COMPULSORY. TOTAL MARKS **50**
3. ANSWER ANY TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION B
TOTAL MARKS **50**
4. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS IN THIS PAPER IS FOUR (4)

**NOTE; MARKS WILL BE AWARDED FOR GOOD COMMUNICATION IN
ENGLISH AND FOR ORDERLY PRESENTATION**

**THIS EXAMINATION PAPER SHOULD NOT BE OPENED UNTIL INVIGILATOR HAS
GRANTED PERMISSION**

SECTION A. - COMPULSORY

Tyrese Sounds Inc. (TSI) is a large warehouse that sells and distributes musical products. Such products include CD's, musical DVD's, musical instruments etc. TSI is in the process of automating (computerising) its purchasing department.

The current manual system requires TSI buyers to monitor inventory and order information by using unit control books. Inventory of current orders and goods is taken monthly at the receiving and marking centre. At the centre the buyer's files are compared to the receiving centre's files to ensure that what has been recorded by the buyer corresponds to what is entered by the receiving centre clerk.

The same process is used when buyers have to confirm the inventory levels. They have to check against what they initially recorded as incoming stock less the items they have sold.

TSI was formed by Tyrone and Reese. Their aim was simple. To sell musical products. They did not think about the issues that technology brings. In fact their line of thinking was that all they needed was space to sell their wares. It was only after getting into operation that they realised how important information technology was and how it could help them achieve their goal of sustainable growth at lower costs.

1. Help TSI automate its purchasing department. Suggest the type of computer hardware they need to put in place (and give reasons why, under the following headings).
 - a. 2 (two) Input devices (5 marks)
 - b. Processing type (5 marks)
 - c. Memory (5 marks)

2. TSI is also contemplating expanding to the West side of the country. Tyrone knows that this move would require some kind of networking so that they can easily share data. However he is not exactly sure the type of equipment that TSI will need. Advise him on 5 components, explaining exactly what each component you suggest will be used for at TSI. (25 marks)

3. Based on your suggestion in (2) above, draw the layout and relation of the components for him, including all the said components in (2) above. (10 marks)

SECTION B – ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS

Question 2

Explain the following concepts, using an example where appropriate;

- a. Non-impact printers (9 marks)
- b. The difference between microwave and infrared (Note: you are to explain the difference, not the definition of each concept.) (8 marks)
- c. The difference between source code and object code. (Note: you are to explain the difference, not the definition of each concept.) (8 marks)

Question 3

Explain two key differences between Asynchronous and Synchronous transmission. For each difference, elaborate using an example (Note: use *one* example that must differentiate the two communication techniques). (10 marks)

Explain three business application softwares, giving an example where they can be used.

(15 marks)

Question 4

Suppose the University Administration asked you to help them develop a database management system for the Kwaluseni Campus that would help them manage the data about students learning at UNISWA (K). As you undertake this activity you realize that most of the administration is not in support of the development of a computerized database management system. In fact most of the administration prefers the old manual system.

- a. Explain to them *4 key benefits* of migrating from the manual to the computerized database system. (16 marks)
- b. Mention *3 key challenges* they may face once they have the new system in place. (9 marks)