

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF COMMERCE

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER 2012/2013

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS COMPUTING

COURSE CODE: BA112

YEAR OF STUDY: B.COM 1 (FULL TIME), DIP COM 2 (IDE)

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This paper consists of section A and B.
2. The case study question – Section A, is compulsory.
3. Answer any three questions from section B.

NOTE: Marks will be awarded for good communication in English and for orderly presentation of work.

This examination paper should not be opened until permission has been granted by the invigilator.

SECTION A: This section is compulsory

Recent surveys have found that many large firms are considering the possibilities of migrating their information systems platforms in the near future. Although some information systems experts believe this migration is inadvisable, the change seems all but inevitable. This technological movement of data processing from mainframes to local-area or wide-area networks – called downsizing – is being undertaken in order to become more competitive and responsive to customers. Along with the change in technology will come fundamental changes in the way accountants and financial managers perform their work.

Required

- a. (i) As data processing and problem solving are being migrated from mainframes to smaller computer systems, what are the advantages and disadvantages to the firm of this shifting in information systems (IS) platforms? (15 marks)
- (ii) What might be the advantages of not changing the IS platforms? (5 marks)
- b. When firms downsize their platforms, they often move to local-area networks (LANs) linked to wide-area networks (WANs). One popular approach to a network is the client/server computing model.
- (i) Define and list the basic components of each of the following terms
- LAN
 - WAN
- (14 marks)
- (ii) Describe three (3) attributes that make an application a good candidate for client server computing. (6 marks)

SECTION B

Answer any *three* questions from this section

1. Discuss the value of information technology in business. (20)
2. Discuss five issues that you would consider in selecting a printer for your business(20)
3. "Computers remain user unfriendly" Do you think this is true? Are they likely to become more user friendly? (20)
4. Discuss four options available to an organization when structuring a database. (20)