

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
SUPPLEMENTARY/RE-SIT EXAMINATION 2017/18**

**TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS COMPUTING
COURSE CODE: BUS111/ IDE-BUS111/BA112/IDE BA112
BCOM 1/B.ED 1/BCOM LEVEL I (IDE)/ B.ED LEVEL1(IDE)
TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS**

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. This paper consists of Sections A & B.**
- 2. The Case Study (Section A) is compulsory.**
- 3. Answer any three questions from section B.**

Note:

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

SECTION A

DISTRIBUTED PROCESSING

THIS SECTION IS COMPULSORY

In the last two decades, there has been a transition from a centralised mainframe computer environment to a distributed network for which an organisation has the ability to share computer processing. One of the fastest growing segments of the computer industry is the local area network (LAN), which is said to be the wave of the future. LANs permit the transfer of information between microcomputers, word processors, data storage devices, printers, voice devices and telecommunication devices. Current opinion holds that the flow of organisational communications has been enhanced by the transition from the optimisation of computers experienced in the traditional distributed network to the optimisation of human resources in the LAN environment.

Required:

- a. Discuss the reasons why an organisation would choose a distributed network over the traditional centralised computer environment. (10)
- b. Compare and contrast the characteristics of a traditional distributed network with those of a local area network as they are related to the :
 - i. Utilisation of computer hardware (5)
 - ii. User interaction and the sharing of electronic information (5)
- c. Identify and explain three problems that can arise from the use of local area networks. (5)

SECTION B

ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION

Question 1

Considering a typical IBM-compatible computer you are required to:

- a. Identify the main components of a personal computer system. For each item identified, provide a brief description of its purpose. (15)
- b. Using relevant examples, describe some of the methods that can be used to assess the performance and quality of key components. (10)

Question 2

- a. Discuss five factors to be considered in selecting software. (15)
- b. Explain the concept of cloud computing and its importance in computing (10)

Question 3

You have been tasked with arranging internet access for other employees in your company. Provide a summary of the hardware and software needed, highlighting the importance of each. (25)

Question 4

- a. Discuss the four primary elements of the database environment. (15)
- b. How are network and hierarchical database models different? (10)