

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI

FACULTY OF COMMERCE

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER 2020/2021

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS COMPUTING

COURSE CODE: BUS111

YEAR OF STUDY: B.COM 1 & B.ED 1 (FULL TIME & IDE),

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This paper consists of sections 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. Using the value chain model, discuss the role of information systems in the performance of primary activities of the value chain. (20)
2. Discuss five issues that you would consider in selecting a computer for your business (20)
3. "In the fourth industrial revolution computing services are run in the cloud." Explain the concept of cloud computing, how it can benefit the organization and challenges to be addressed by the organization when embracing this technological innovation. (20)
4. The data mining process can provide at least five types of information. Explain these types with the help of examples. (20)
5. Explain five challenges to be addressed by an organization such as UNESWA as it implements a computer network. (20)