

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI

FACULTY OF COMMERCE

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

RE-SIT EXAMINATION PAPER 2020/2021

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS COMPUTING

COURSE CODE: BUS111

YEAR OF STUDY: B.COM 1 & B.ED1 (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**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. Coupled with this has also been the growth in cloud computing, which promotes seamless transfer and exchange of information across the globe. 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. It has been further enhanced by the adoption of the use of hand-held devices that are used in cloud computing platforms.

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. How can organisations benefit from the use of cloud computing? (10)
- d. What challenges can be experienced by organisations in the use of cloud computing services highlighted above? (10)

SECTION B

Answer any three questions from this section.

Question 1

Discuss the three major IS dimensions and the impact of IS on the three dimensions. For each of the dimensions discussed provide two challenges to be addressed. (20)

Question 2

Discuss five features that are likely to be available in a word processing package that make it useful. (20)

Question 3

Discuss the main characteristics of each one of the four generations of programming languages. (20)

Question 4

Under four headings, discuss network topologies. (20)

Question 5

Discuss five reasons why organizations need to implement networks. (20)