THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF PAKISTAN

Intermediate Examinations   Autumn 2008

September 8, 2008

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Module D

(Marks 60)
(1 hour 45 minutes)

Q.1   New Era Textiles Limited is in the process of laying Local Area Network (LAN) in their factory for the first time. The management has hired you to supervise this task. Since the management has no previous experience of working in a LAN environment, it has requested you for a discussion on the subject.

You are required to appraise the management about:
(a)   Four major types of network topologies and their salient features.   **(08)**
(b)   Duties related to administration and control of LAN.   **(03)**

Q.2   Tameer Constructions Limited (TCL) is a growing company and is handling various projects simultaneously. During the management meeting, the Project Managers highlighted the problems in the existing software, which was developed five years ago. They emphasized the need for a better software according to the present requirements. The senior management has decided to carry out a feasibility study before making a final decision.

Briefly explain the areas which should be addressed in the feasibility study.   **(05)**

Q.3   Most of the advanced and sensitive systems place significant reliance on automated controls. Audit trail is one such automated control.

(a)   Explain the concept of audit trail in a computerized environment.   **(02)**
(b)   List the major benefits which can be derived from the use of audit trails   **(03)**

Q.4   Identify the advantages which can be derived by the use of Computer Aided Software Engineering (CASE) tools, in the system development process.   **(08)**

Q.5   (a)   Briefly explain the terms "system flowchart" and "program flowchart". Also, identify the disadvantages associated with the use of a flowchart.   **(04)**

(b)   One Place Departmental Store is offering 10% discount to all its customers who make purchases of more than Rs. 10,000 during a single visit. On each counter, the item code and the quantity is fed into a computer for generating the cash memo. You are required to prepare a program flowchart showing the above steps.   **(06)**

Q.6   The Finance Manager of Nafees Traders (NT) wants to buy a customized Decision Support System for assistance in various financial projections and decision making. However, the management is not convinced with its utility because it is of the view that such programs cannot replace human intelligence, which is vital for business decisions.

On behalf of the Finance Manager, apprise the management about the uses and benefits of a Decision Support System.   **(06)**

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Q.7 As the need for updated information is increasing, online processing is gaining popularity. However, batch processing is still a preferred choice for certain business applications.

    (a) Explain how batch processing is different from online processing, in terms of processing of transactions, file updation and response time. **(03)**

    (b) Briefly explain two situations in which batch processing will usually be preferred over online processing. **(03)**

    (c) Briefly describe the three major types of data files used in batch processing environment. **(03)**

Q.8 The management of Explicit Technologies Limited (ETL) has decided to develop a risk management manual for their IT operations. You are required to explain the main stages in the risk management process. **(06)**

(THE END)