



# THE MOMBASA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

(A Constituent College of Jkuat)

*Faculty of Engineering and Technology*

**DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

CERTIFICATE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**ECS 1103: INTRODUCTION TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

SPECIAL/SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION

**SERIES: OCTOBER 2011**

**TIME: 2 HOURS**

## **Instructions to Candidates**

You should have the following for this examination

- *Answer booklet*

Answer question **ONE (COMPULSORY)** in section A and any other **TWO** questions from section B

Maximum marks for each part of a question are clearly shown.

This paper consists of **THREE** printed pages

### **Question 1**

- a) What is a computer? (1 marks)
- b) Describe the functions of a computer (4 marks)
- c) List any 4 input devices (4 marks)
- d) Distinguish between the following
- i. Hardware and software
  - ii. ROM and RAM (4 marks)
- a) List any 3 benefits of networking computers (3 marks)
- b) Give any 3 subunits of a CPU (3 marks)
- c) Name 3 ways of classifying computers (3 marks)
- d) Define the following
- i. bit
  - ii. byte
  - iii. data (3 marks)
- e) Name the 2 most important toolbars used when working with ms word (1 marks)
- f) Differentiate between the following as used in ms word application
- i. save and save as
  - ii. close and exit (4 marks)

### **Question 2**

- a) Describe any 4 functions of an operating system (8 marks)
- b) with the help of a diagram, describe the software family tree (12 marks)

### **Question 3**

- a) State any four health issues associated with the use of computers and suggest the solutions for each. [8 marks]
- b) Flash disks have become the storage media of choice today as opposed to floppy diskettes. Describe 4 characteristics of the flash disk that make it to be preferred to the floppy diskette. [4 marks]
- c) Differentiate between warm booting and cold booting [4 marks]
- d) State the major stages in the boot process. [4 marks]

### **Question 4**

Discuss the features of each of the following types of computers

- i. Super computers
- ii. Mainframe computers
- iii. Minicomputers
- iv. microcomputers (20 marks)

**Question 5**

- a) Briefly outline the history of computers, stating the timeline and the major technological inventions of each generation. [10 marks]
- b) State the advantages and disadvantages of using computers. [10 marks]