

KAMUZU BARRACKS COMMUNITY DAY SECONDARY SCHOOL



2024-25 MALAWI SCHOOL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION

COMPUTER STUDIES

Subject Number: M039/I

December, 2024

Time Allowed: 2 hours  
8:00 – 10:00 am

PAPER I

(100 marks)

Instructions

- 1. This paper contains 8 printed pages. Please check.
- 2. This paper has two Sections, A and B. Answer all the questions in all Sections.
- 3. The maximum number of marks for each question is indicated against each question.
- 4. Follow the instruction for each section.
- 5. Write your Name and Examination Number at the top of each question paper.
- 6. Use of computers or calculators is strictly prohibited in this paper.
- 7. In the table provided on this page, tick against the question number of have answered.

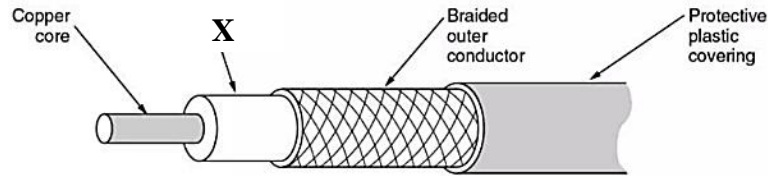
Question Number	Tick if answered	Do not write in these columns	
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
Total			



Section A (55 marks)

Answer **all** the **six** questions in the spaces provided.

1. **Figure 1** is a diagram showing **one** example of transmission media.



**Figure 1**

a. (i) Identify the transmission media shown in **Figure 1**.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(1 mark)

(ii) What is the function of the part labelled **X**?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(1 mark)

(iii) Explain any **one** advantage of the transmission media shown in **Figure 1**.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(2 marks)

b. Describe each of the following spreadsheet cell contents:

(i) Labels

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(2 marks)

(ii) Values

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(2 marks)



2. a. Give **three** types of input devices.

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(3 marks)

b. What part of a mouse is used to display menu options on a computer when pressed?

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(1 mark)

c. How do you switch on/off the numeric keypad on a computer keyboard?

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(1 mark)

d. Explain any **two** advantages of presenting data using charts in a spreadsheet.

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(4 marks)

3. a. Define a computer network.

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(1 mark)

b. Describe the following types of computer networks.

(i) Wide Area Network

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(2 marks)

(ii) Personal Area Network

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(2 marks)

(iii) Virtual Private Network

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(2 marks)



- c. Differentiate between a switch and a hub as computer network devices.

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(2 marks)

4. a. What is a compiler?

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(1 mark)

- b. Differentiate between low-level and high-level programming languages.

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(2 marks)

- c. Mention any **two** examples of computer programming languages.

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(2 marks)

- d. Explain any **two** characteristics of a good computer program.

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(4 marks)

5. a. Give any **two** examples of system software.

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(2 marks)



- b. Mention any **two** commonly used software installation media.

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(2 marks)

- c. Explain any **two** ways in which software upgrading is important.

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(4 marks)

6. a. What do the following icons stand for?



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(2 marks)

- b. Mention any **two** elements of a communication system.

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(2 marks)

- c. Describe the following features of Desktop Publishing software:

- (i) Template

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(2 marks)

- (ii) Editing feature

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(2 marks)

- d. Explain any **two** ways in which a user can protect a computer from computer viruses.

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(4 marks)



SECTION B (45 marks)

There are **three** questions in this section

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided

7. a. State any **two** functions of the **Esc** button on a computer keyboard.

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(2 marks)

- b. List any **three** basic types of Desktop Publishing software.

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(3 marks)

- c. Describe an electronic spreadsheet.

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(5 marks)

- d. Outline the procedure for protecting a workbook in a spreadsheet.

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(5 marks)

8. a. What is the shortcut for the following command in a word processing software:

(i) Printing a document: \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) Opening spell checker: \_\_\_\_\_

(2 marks)



- b. How would validation rule and validation text ensure a high degree of accuracy during data entry?

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(3 marks)

- c. With the aid of a well labelled diagram, draw a bus network topology.



(4 marks)

- d. Explain any **three** printing problems that may arise during the printing of a document.

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(6 marks)

9. a. Mention any **two** features of a Graphical User Interface (GUI) operating system.

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(2 marks)

- b. Describe how a Random Access Memory works.

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(3 marks)



c. Describe any **five** error messages in a spreadsheet.

[illegible]

**(10 marks)**

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

**NB: This paper contains 8 printed pages.**

