

**Task #1: MCQs [CLO1]****[5 Marks]**

1. Which of the following statements best describes the fundamental role of a protocol in computer networks?
  - a. It specifies how devices establish a physical connection.
  - b. It dictates how applications are developed for networking purposes.
  - c. **It defines the format and order of messages exchanged between network entities.**
  - d. It describes how hardware components interact with the operating system.
2. Which of the following technologies is an example of a wide-area wireless access technology?
  - a. DSL
  - b. Fiber-to-the-home (FTTH)
  - c. **4G LTE**
  - d. Ethernet
3. Packet-switched network differs from a circuit-switched network primarily because:
  - a. It allocates dedicated bandwidth to each connection.
  - b. **It uses a store-and-forward mechanism for data transmission.**
  - c. It guarantees zero packet loss.
  - d. It eliminates queuing delay completely.
4. What is the primary function of an Internet Exchange Point (IXP)?
  - a. It enables direct communication between end-user devices.
  - b. **It facilitates the peering of Internet Service Providers (ISPs).**
  - c. It enhances encryption in online communication.
  - d. It controls Internet traffic congestion at the transport layer.
5. Which of the following types of delay in a computer network is highly variable and depends on traffic conditions?
  - a. Transmission delay
  - b. Propagation delay
  - c. **Queuing delay**
  - d. Processing delay
6. Which of the following best defines the "network edge"?
  - a. The core of the Internet is where ISPs interconnect.
  - b. The outermost part of a network where end systems reside.
  - c. The hardware inside a router that directs traffic.
  - d. The interface where ISPs control Internet access
7. Which type of delay is minimized in circuit-switched networks compared to packet-switched networks?
  - a. Transmission delay
  - b. Propagation delay
  - c. **Queuing delay**
  - d. Processing delay
8. Which factor contributes to queuing delays in a network?
  - a. The distance between the sender and receiver.
  - b. The time required to move a packet from one node to another.
  - c. **The time a packet waits in the buffer due to network congestion.**
  - d. The time needed for error detection and correction.
9. Which Internet access technology generally provides the lowest latency for home users?
  - a. DSL
  - b. Satellite Internet
  - c. **Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH)**
  - d. Cable Modem
10. What is a major disadvantage of packet-switched networks compared to circuit-switched networks?
  - a. Wasted bandwidth during idle time
  - b. Lack of scalability
  - c. **Potential packet loss and variable delays**
  - d. Fixed resource allocation

**Task #2: CLO1****[5 Marks]**

Suppose there is exactly one packet switch between a sending host and a receiving host. The transmission rates between the sending host and the switch and between the switch and the receiving host are  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ , respectively. Assuming that the switch uses store-and-forward packet switching, what is the total end-to-end delay to send a packet of length  $L$ ? (Ignore queuing, propagation delay, and processing delay.)

$$\frac{L}{R_1} + \frac{L}{R_2}$$

**Task #3: CLO1****[5 Marks]**

Suppose Host A wants to send a large file to Host B. The path from Host A to Host B has three links of rates  $R_1 = 500$  kbps,  $R_2 = 2$  Mbps, and  $R_3 = 1$  Mbps.

- a) Assuming no other traffic in the network, what is the throughput for the file transfer? [1 mark]

**500 kbps**

- b) Suppose the file is 4 million bytes. Dividing the file size by the throughput, roughly how long will it take to transfer the file to Host B?

**64 seconds**

- c) Repeat (a) and (b), but now with  $R_2$  reduced to 100 kbps.

$$\text{Throughput} = \min(R_1, R_2, R_3) = 100 \text{ kbps}$$
$$\text{Time} = \frac{32 \times 10^6}{100 \times 10^3} = 320 \text{ seconds}$$

#### Task #4: CLO1

[5 Marks]

This elementary problem begins to explore propagation delay and transmission delay, two central concepts in data networking. Consider two hosts, A and B, connected by a single link of rate  $R$  bps. Suppose that the two hosts are separated by  $m$  meters, and suppose the propagation speed along the link is  $s$  meters/sec. Host A is to send a packet of size  $L$  bits to Host B.

- a) Suppose Host A begins to transmit the packet at time  $t = 0$ . At time  $t = d_{\text{trans}}$ , where is the last bit of the packet?

**Last bit is just transmitted from Host A into the link.**

- b) Suppose  $d_{\text{prop}}$  is greater than  $d_{\text{trans}}$ . At time  $t = d_{\text{trans}}$ , where is the first bit of the packet?

**It is still in transit along the link between Host A and Host B, not yet arrived at Host B.**

- c) Suppose  $s = 2.5 \times 10^8$ ,  $L = 1500$  bytes, and  $R = 10$  Mbps. Find the distance  $m$  so that  $d_{\text{prop}}$  equals  $d_{\text{trans}}$ .

**Distance  $m=300$  km**