

Put your answers in a PDF file; name it if-then-else.pdf.

Warning: Other file formats will NOT receive any mark.

Question 1: 2 marks
2: 2 marks
3: 1 mark

Question 1

Most programming languages support if-then-else statements, with the "else" being optional. A long time ago, this was done carelessly and resulted in ambiguous grammars. Here is a simplified re-living of that time, with test conditions and statements replaced by terminal symbols to show the gist and avoid distractions.

```
<stmt> ::= <cond> | "A" | "B" | "C"
<cond> ::= "if" <test> "then" <stmt>
          | "if" <test> "then" <stmt> "else" <stmt>
<test> ::= "T1" | "T2"
```

Give two different parse trees for

if T1 then if T2 then A else B

Reminder: A parse tree, rather than an abstract syntax tree, is required.

```
          Stmt
          |
          Cond
    If Test then Stmt -- + --
          |       |
          T2      Cond
          |       |
    If Test then Stmt else Stmt +
          |       |       |
          T2      A       B
```

```
          Stmt
          |
          Cond
    If T1 then Stmt else Stmt-- + --
          |       |
          Cond      B
          |
    If T2 then Stmt
          |
          A
```

Question 2

A way out is to add brackets, which is adopted by many imperative languages:

```

<stmt> ::= <cond> | "A" | "B" | "C"
<cond> ::= "if" <test> "then {" <stmt> "}"
          | "if" <test> "then {" <stmt> "}" else {" <stmt> "}"
<test> ::= "T1" | "T2"

```

Add curly brackets to

```
if T1 then if T2 then A else B
```

to fit this grammar. There are two versions, inspired by the two parse trees witnessed in Question 1; give both versions. (No need to draw the new parse trees.)

```
if T1 then {if T2 then {A} else {B}}
```

```
if T1 then {if T2 then {A}} else {B}
```

Question 3

Another way out is to make "else" compulsory, which is adopted by many functional languages:

```

<stmt> ::= <cond> | "A" | "B" | "C"
<cond> ::= "if" <test> "then" <stmt> "else" <stmt>
<test> ::= "T1" | "T2"

```

Give a parse tree for

```
if T1 then if T2 then A else B else C
```

(and discover that you have only one choice).

