



MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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University Examinations 2018/2019

SECOND YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DIPLOMA IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

CIT 2200: COMPUTER SYSTEMS ARCHITECTURE

DATE: AUGUST 2019

TIME: 1½ HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question *one* and any other *two* questions

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Define the following terms (4 marks)
 - i. Computer architecture
 - ii. Computer organization
- b) State three differences between computer architecture and computer organization (6 marks)
- c) Define Instruction Set Architecture (2 marks)
- d) List the three classic components of a computer (3 marks)
- e) What is a machine cycle? (2 marks)
 - i. List any three activities involved in one machine cycle (3 marks)
- f) Explain the stored-program concept (4 marks)
- g) Mention at least four elements of the von Neumann model of a digital computer (4 marks)
- h) State the functions of each of the following registers (2 marks)
 - i. Program counter

- ii. Current instruction register

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Using a diagrammatic representation, illustrate the computer system (6 marks)
- b) Describe the basic operation of a digital computer system (7 marks)
- c) Prove the following Boolean identity $A + \overline{AB} = A + B$ (4 marks)
- d) State three tasks performed by input devices (3 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) Von-Neumann architecture was proposed in 1945 and is based on the stored-program computer concept. This design is still used in most computers produced today
- i. Describe the Von-Neumann model (4 marks)
- ii. What are the characteristics of a Von-Neumann-based computer (2 marks)
- b) Describe the three categories of computer architecture (6 marks)
- c) Diagrammatically, illustrate an AND gate (2 marks)
- d) Determine the output X of a logic circuit shown below. Simplify the output expression using Boolean Laws and theorems. Redraw the logic circuit with the simplified expression (6 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Consider the logic function with three inputs: A, B, and C. output D is true if at least one input is true, output E is true if exactly two inputs are true and Output F is true only if all three inputs are true
- i. Show the truth table for these three functions (3 marks)

A	B	C	D	E	F

- ii. Show the Boolean equations for these three functions (3 marks)
- iii. Show an implementation consisting of gates (invertors, AND,OR,NOR,etc).
Connect your circuit to the provided feeds (input and output) (3 marks)

Input	Output
A	D
B	E
C	F

- b) Write down two functions of each of the following CPU components (4 marks)
- Arithmetic logic unit
 - Control unit
- c) State the categories in each of the following general system architecture
- Store program control concept (3 marks)
 - Flynn's classification of computers (4 marks)