



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

Semester I Semester II Supplemental/Summer School

Examinations of December /April/May /July 2013

Originating Campus: Cave Hill Mona St. Augustine

Mode: On Campus By Distance

Course Code and Title: **LIBS6002 – INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION & SOCIETY**

Date: **April 30, 2013**

Time: **2:00 – 5:00 pm**

Duration: **3 HOURS**

Paper No:

Materials required:

Answer booklet: Normal Special Not required

Calculator: Programmable Non Programmable
(where applicable)

Multiple Choice answer sheets: numerical alphabetical 1-20 1-100

Auxiliary/Other material(s) – Please specify:

Candidates are permitted to bring the following items to their desks:

Instructions to Candidates: This paper has 3 pages & 6 questions.

Candidates are reminded that the examiners shall take into account the proper use of the English Language in determining the mark for each response.

**ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS.
EACH QUESTION IS WORTH TWENTY (20) POINTS.**

The University of the West Indies

Course Code

20...../...../.....

DO NOT WRITE OR TYPE ON THE BACK OF THIS SHEET: USE ONE SIDE ONLY

INSTRUCTIONS: Each page must be signed by the First and Second Examiners, and where applicable the University and External Examiners. Completed forms should be handed to the Senior/Assistant Registrar (Examinations). Where applicable, the EXTERNAL EXAMINER is required to sign the question paper and return it with comments, if any, (on a separate sheet), to the Senior/Assistant Registrar (Examinations).

.....
First Examiner

.....
University Examiner (where applicable)

.....
Second Examiner

.....
External Examiner (where applicable)

Date: 20...../...../.....

Date: 20...../...../.....

1. Read the excerpt below and answer the questions that follow:

“Once embodied in a narrative of technological development, one can accurately represent technology as both autonomous from and dependent upon the values of the society that produces it. The discursive force of the ideology of technology depends not so much on falsehood or concealment, but rather on the way it sometimes imparts a truth about technology while still advancing partisan interests and insulating technology from its origins” (McOmber, 1999, p. 139).

- a. Explain the meaning of the term “narrative of technological development” and why does McOmber advance it as a superior frame of reference?
 - b. What “partisan interests” does the ideology of technology promote and why might that be a problem? Give **TWO (2)** examples.
2. In 2003 the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) convened in Geneva to present the draft of the principles on which the information society would be founded. The introductory statement declares that the new society will be defined by comprehensive access and use of information – by *all* peoples – for the creation, accumulation and dissemination of knowledge.
- a. What features characterize the “information society” as a new paradigm?
 - b. With reference to specific provisions of the Declaration, discuss from a local or regional perspective **THREE (3)** advantages that arise from being part of an information society.
3. On February 7, 2013 UWI’s Marketing and Communications Office posted a news story informing the university community about the introduction of e-books and smart tablets to students in the Basic Medical Sciences Faculty. Described as “another innovation for The UWI Mona” the electronic books reduce the cost usually associated with purchasing resource material for medical studies.

Drawing on each of Martin’s (1995) *two* frames of reference – “information-as-resource”, and “information-as-commodity”– comment on the significance of this initiative for the teaching/learning encounter within UWI’s medical community.

4. According to Unwin (2009), while it is true that ICTs can provide benefits for poor and marginalized communities, the uncritical adoption of ICT projects can in some situations accentuate inequalities rather than alleviate them.
- a. In what way does this relate to the concept of “digital divide(s)”?
 - b. Using illustrations from the local situation or from the literature, explain how ICTs may contribute to development in one situation, while fostering inequality in another.

DO NOT WRITE OR TYPE ON THE BACK OF THIS SHEET: USE ONE SIDE ONLY
INSTRUCTIONS: Each page must be signed by the First and Second Examiners, and where applicable the University and External Examiners. Completed forms should be handed to the Senior/Assistant Registrar (Examinations). Where applicable, the EXTERNAL EXAMINER is required to sign the question paper and return it with comments, if any, (on a separate sheet), to the Senior/Assistant Registrar (Examinations).

.....
First Examiner University Examiner (where applicable)
.....
Second Examiner External Examiner (where applicable)
Date: 20.../.../..... Date: 20.../.../.....

5. What are the levels of policy and advocacy that exist in the development of the ICT sector? Drawing on local or regional examples, describe **THREE (3)** key features of the various levels, and implications for ICT policy development.

6. The World Economic Forum (2007) posits that the emerging “Digital Ecosystem” is providing opportunities for creating social and economic value, but is also generating risks and challenges for governments as they formulate policy.
 - a. Discuss **TWO (2)** “critical uncertainties” cited by the report that arise from the Digital Ecosystem.

 - b. Using **THREE (3)** examples, explain how becoming information literate enables the user to participate effectively in the Digital Ecosystem.

END OF PAPER

The University of the West Indies Course Code 20..../..../...

DO NOT WRITE OR TYPE ON THE BACK OF THIS SHEET: USE ONE SIDE ONLY
 INSTRUCTIONS: Each page must be signed by the First and Second Examiners, and where applicable the University and External Examiners. Completed forms should be handed to the Senior/Assistant Registrar (Examinations). Where applicable, the EXTERNAL EXAMINER is required to sign the question paper and return it with comments, if any, (on a separate sheet), to the Senior/Assistant Registrar (Examinations).

.....
 First Examiner

.....
 University Examiner (where applicable)

.....
 Second Examiner

.....
 External Examiner (where applicable)

Date: 20...../...../.....

Date: 20...../...../.....