



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

Semester I Semester II Supplemental/Summer School

Examinations of December /April/May /July 2008

Originating Campus: Cave Hill Mona St. Augustine

Mode: On Campus By Distance

Course Code and Title: **LIBS6002 – Information, Communication and Society**

Date: Time: **Monday, December 8, 2008** 2:00pm – 5:00pm

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 2 pages & 9 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.

DO ONE (1) QUESTION EACH FROM SECTIONS (A), (B) AND (C). EACH QUESTION IS WORTH 20 MARKS.

SECTION A

1. Characterise the prevailing digital environment and assess the impact of new ICTs on **TWO (2)** areas of social and economic life in a country of your choice.
2. “New technologies are...changing the very nature of mass communication processes” (Bryant, J. & Heath, R.L., 2000). Evaluate and discuss this statement with reference to the classical ‘Source-Message-Channel-Receiver’ communication model.

3. Would you agree that information and communication technologies are enablers and not determinants of organizational, social and economic outcomes? Explain your view, giving examples that support your perspective.

SECTION B

4. Discuss the performance of a country of your choice in the global information and communication economy as a measure of its information society status.
5. Identify **THREE (3)** main developments that have defined the global information and communication economy since 1995 and assess current levels of participation by developing countries in this economy.
6. Identify and discuss the **TWO (2)** main trends currently evident in the global ICT economy and propose implications that these may have for countries in the English-speaking Caribbean.

SECTION C

7. Compare and contrast the main policy approaches and measures implemented in a Caribbean and a non-Caribbean country to facilitate deployment, assess, and use of ICT's for national development.
8. Comment on the main technological, economic and market developments that indicate a need for policy and regulatory reform in the telecommunications/ICT industry and provide examples of these reforms.
9. Reconceptualising the 'digital divide' is imperative to ensure that appropriate digital and non-digital interventions are made in narrowing the "divide". Discuss this statement in relation to the development and delivery of library services.

END OF QUESTION PAPER