



JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS AND INNOVATIVE SYSTEMS
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF EDUCATION ARTS WITH
IT; EDUCATION SCIENCE WITH IT; SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION WITH IT;
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION WITH IT & ACTUARIAL SCIENCE WITH IT
4TH YEAR 1ST SEMESTER 2017 / 2018 ACADEMIC YEAR
MAIN CAMPUS; KISUMU CAMPUS; KISHI CAMPUS; NAMBALE LEARNING
CENTRE**

COURSE CODE: SCS 409

COURSE TITLE: IT & SOCIETY

EXAM VENUE:

STREAM:

DATE: DECEMBER 2017

EXAM SESSION:

TIME: 2.00 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Answer Question 1 (Compulsory) and ANY other two questions**
- 2. Candidates are advised not to write on the question paper**
- 3. Candidates must hand in their answer booklets to the invigilator while in the examination room**

Question One

Social media is changing our perceptions of ourselves, others, and the world. The present world has technology saturate human beings to the point of “multiphrenia,” a fragmented version of the self that is pulled in so many directions the individual is lost. Descartes could today argue, “I am linked, therefore I am”. Today our society sits here with our tablets and cell phones and electronic gadgets—seduced by the lure of the blue light glow—we have never been more linked, more connected, and more bound to a virtual reality that many of us can no longer live without. Tethered to technology, we are shaken when that world ‘unplugged’ does not signify, does not satisfy. We build a following on Facebook or MySpace and wonder to what degree our followers are friends. We re-create ourselves as online personae and give ourselves new bodies, homes, jobs, and romances.

Discuss this ensuing virtual life under the following topics:

1. The unreal world: unreal life, unreal self and unreal priorities. (6 marks)
2. The collective unconscious groups personified (6 marks)
3. The professional fibber (6 marks)
4. Love in the time of social media (6 marks)
5. To disconnect, or not to disconnect (6 marks)

Question Two

As technology is advancing rapidly, computer and information technology have brought convenience to the community by allowing people from all walks of life and different age groups to obtain information from the Internet and have closer liaison with friends and relatives. While the use of the Internet by young people and children is increasingly common, they will have contact with the people they know by emails, social networking websites and messaging software as well as making friends online by these means. In recent years, criminals use online social networking as a pretext for committing crimes such as rape, indecent assault, criminal intimidation, theft and fraud.

- a) Using practical examples, contemplate ways through which young people and children can be kept safe while using social media (10 marks)

- b) Computer crime laws relate to hacking and unauthorized access, viruses, malware or any other actions that interfere with computers, systems, programs or networks. Provide any four types of computer laws you are familiar with (10 marks)

Question Three

Cyber threats have enormous implications for government security, economic prosperity and public safety. Nations are addressing cybersecurity through various initiatives, such as providing more funding for improved security measures, requiring government agencies or businesses to implement specific types of security practices, increasing penalties for computer crimes, addressing threats to critical infrastructure, and more.

- a) Provide any four types of threats you are familiar with (10 marks)
- b) Based on the examples given in a) above, provide measures that could be employed to deal with them (10 marks)

Question Four

New technology offers an unprecedented chance for developing countries to ‘leapfrog’ earlier stages of development. Proponents of this view not only stress the potential benefits of ICT but also argue that in an increasingly globalized economy, countries that fail to “get connected” will fall further and further behind.

- a) Discuss, the potential contribution that information and communication technology (ICT) can make to global development (10 marks)
- b) On equal measure, discuss the contribution of information and communication technology (ICT) in widening the digital divide. (10 marks)

Question Five

We are currently living in the so-called information age which can be described as an era where economic activities are mainly information based (an age of informationalization). This is due to the development and use of technology. The main characteristics of this era can be summarized as a rise in the number of knowledge workers, a world that has become more open - in the sense of communication (global village/Gutenberg galaxy) and internationalization (trans-border flow of data). This paradigm shift brings new ethical and juridical problems which are mainly related to issues such as the right of access to information, the right of privacy which is threatened by the emphasis on the free flow of information, and the protection of the economic interest of the owners of intellectual property.

- a) Discuss ethical questions related to the right to privacy of the individual which is threatened by the use of technology (10 marks)
- b) Provide practical guidelines, based on ethical norms as a solution to issues raised in a) above (10 marks)