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UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2016/2017

EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF SCIENCE IN SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

BLM 3322: WAREHOUSING: YEAR III SEMESTER II

TIME: TWO HOURS. APRIL 2017.

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS:

QUESTION 1:

a) Warehousing is used in the storage of inventories during all phases of logistics process. Since inventory carrying costs can be so high, why is it necessary for a firm to store inventories of any kind? (15 marks)

b) Identify and describe some of the more important factors that affect the specific size of a firm's warehouse or warehouses. (10 marks)

c) What are the advantages of having the receiving and shipping docks on opposite sides of the warehouse? (5 marks).

QUESTION 2:

a) Explain the difference between a warehouse and a distribution center. (8 marks)

b) How can layout and design affect warehouse efficiency and productivity? (12 marks)

QUESTION 3:

a) What are the differences between private and public warehousing? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each type? (14 marks)

b) Discuss and illustrate the role warehouses play in reverse logistics. (6 marks)

QUESTION 4:

a) Why would a warehouse be described as a "necessary evil"? (10 marks)

b) One objective of materials handling is to increase effective capacity, that is, to improve space utilization. How does materials handling help to achieve this objective? (10 marks)

QUESTION 5:

a) Some managers argue that warehousing can aid companies in providing value – added service for their customers. What is your view of this statement? (10 marks)

b) Productivity has been defined as the ratio of real output to real input. In terms of the warehousing function, how could a firm measure the productivity level of its storage facilities? (10 marks)