



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2011/2012
SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF
EDUCATION
SMA 290: OPERATING SYSTEMS

DATE: TUESDAY, 27 MARCH 2012

TIME: 2.00 P.M. – 4.00 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS: *Answer question ONE and any other TWO questions.*

QUESTION ONE(30 marks)

- a) How do you define 'platform' as it relates to operating systems? [3 marks]
- b) Give a brief history of the evolution of operating systems. [4 marks]
- c) Give some general guidelines in user interface design [6 marks]
- d) Describe the two main categories of memory [4 marks]
- e) List the steps in booting up a computer system [7 marks]
- f) Give some general guidelines that will help you manage your files [6 marks]

QUESTION TWO(20 marks)

- a) What are states of a multi-tasking operating system kernel? [5 marks]
- b) Explain the two types of dialogues [8 marks]
- c) What information does the process control block typically contain? [7 marks]

QUESTION THREE(20 marks)

- a) List down the four types of process scheduling carried out by the operating system. [8 marks]
- b) What are the two major tasks of a user interface [2 marks]
- c) List the three goals of modern operating systems [6 marks]
- d) What are the major activities of the operating systems in regard to process management? [4 marks]

QUESTION FOUR(20 marks)

- a) What are the major activities of the operating systems in regard to file management?[6 marks]
- b) Give three reasons why most software is too hard to use. [6 marks]
- c) What are registers [4 marks]
- d) What is a Process? [4 marks]

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