



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA
PLOT 91, CADASTRAL ZONE, NNAMDI AZIKIWE EXPRESSWAY, JABI-ABUJA
FACULTY OF COMPUTING
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
2025_2 EXAMINATIONS

COURSE CODE: CIT309

COURSE TITLE: Computer Architecture

CREDIT: 3 Units

TIME ALLOWED: 3 Hours

INSTRUCTION: Answer Question One (1) and any other Three (3)

Question 1

Briefly describe each of the following

- i) SMP architecture. (2 marks)
- ii) Uniprocessor architecture (2 marks)
- iii) Processor performance measure. (2 marks)
- iv) Memory (2marks)
- v) Pipe-lining (2 marks)
- vi) Micro architecture (2 marks)
- vii) Cache memory (2 marks)
- viii) Von Neumann architecture (2 marks)
- ix) Flynn's taxonomy (2 marks)
- x) Time-shared bus (2 marks)
- xi) Logic gate (2 marks)
- xii) Micro-operation (3 marks)

Question 2

- (a) Briefly explain the difference between Multicore and Multiprocessor (6 marks)
- (b) (i) List four major types of parallel processor system discussed in this course (2 marks)
(ii) Briefly explain items listed in (i) above (6 marks)

Question 3

- (a) Explain any four (4) important instruction set design issues in computer architecture. (8 marks)
- (b) Briefly explain the key components of a Mainframe Symmetric system. (7 marks)

Question 4

- (a) What are the principal advantages and disadvantage(s) of using micro-programming to implement a control unit? (8 marks)
- (b) List and explain any three (3) popular advantages of Symmetric Multiprocessor over Uniprocessor architecture. (7 marks)

Question 5

- (a) Differentiate between the following terms: (7^{1/2} marks)
i.) Control bus ii.) Address bus iii.) Data bus iv.) Karnaugh map v.) Boolean algebra
- (b) List and explain any three performance parameters in computer memory. (7^{1/2} marks)

Question 6

- (a) Briefly explain the following terminologies (7^{1/2} marks)
 - i.) Processor instruction set (1^{1/2} marks)
 - ii.) Opcodes (1^{1/2} marks)
 - iii.) Arithmetic and Logic Unit (ALU) (1^{1/2} marks)
 - iv.) Two's complement notation (1^{1/2} marks)
 - v.) Memory buffer register (MBR) (1^{1/2} marks)
- (b) The operation of the processor is determined by the instructions it executes. Enumerate four main elements of a machine instruction (7^{1/2} marks)