

SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

TOTAL MARKS:17

QUESTION 1:

- (a) One of the key features of von Neumann computer architecture is the use of buses.

Three buses and three descriptions are shown below.

Draw a line to connect each bus to its correct description.

Bus	Description
address bus	this bus carries signals used to coordinate the computer's activities
control bus	this bi-directional bus is used to exchange data between processor, memory and input/output devices
data bus	this uni-directional bus carries signals relating to memory addresses between processor and memory

[2]

QUESTION 2:

- (b) The seven stages in a von Neumann fetch-execute cycle are shown in the table below.

Put each stage in the correct sequence by writing the numbers 1 to 7 in the right hand column.
The first one has been done for you.

Stage	Sequence number
the instruction is then copied from the memory location contained in the MAR (memory address register) and is placed in the MDR (memory data register)	
the instruction is finally decoded and is then executed	
the PC (program counter) contains the address of the next instruction to be fetched	1
the entire instruction is then copied from the MDR (memory data register) and placed in the CIR (current instruction register)	
the address contained in the PC (program counter) is copied to the MAR (memory address register) via the address bus	
the address part of the instruction, if any, is placed in the MAR (memory address register)	
the value in the PC (program counter) is then incremented so that it points to the next instruction to be fetched	

[6]

- 2 Paige has a computer that has a central processing unit (CPU) based on the Von Neumann model for a computer system.

(a) Identify the component within the CPU that controls the flow of data.

..... [1]

(b) Identify the component within the CPU where calculations are carried out.

..... [1]

(c) Identify the component within the CPU that stores the address of the next instruction to be processed.

..... [1]

(d) Identify the register within the CPU that holds an instruction that has been fetched from memory.

..... [1]

(e) Identify the register within the CPU that holds data that has been fetched from memory.

..... [1]

QUESTION 4:

- 2 The Von Neumann model for a computer system uses several components in the fetch-execute cycle. One component that is used is the Control Unit (CU).

Identify **four** other components that are used in the Von Neumann model for a computer system.

1

2

3

4

[4]