



(University of Choice)

**MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY OF  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
(MMUST)**

**MAIN CAMPUS**

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS  
2021/2022 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**FOURTH YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS**

**FOR THE DEGREE  
OF  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELECTRICAL AND  
COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERING**

**COURSE CODE: ECE 415**

**COURSE TITLE: POWER ELECTRONICS 1**

**DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**

**TIME: 3:00 - 5:00 PM**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

ANSWER QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS.  
QUESTION ONE CARRIES 30 MARKS AND ALL OTHERS 20 MARKS EACH.

**MMUST observes ZERO tolerance to examination cheating**

This Paper Consists of 4 Printed Pages. Please Turn Over. ►

### QUESTION ONE

- (a) Define the term power electronics (2marks)
- (b) Describe the following power semiconductor devices stating advantages in each case
- (i) Power diodes
  - (ii) Power transistors (BJTs)
  - (iii) Thyristors (6 marks)
- (c) Name and explain the three basic modes of operation of an SCR (9 marks)
- (d) An SCR is triggered from a 12v source, the loadline has a slope of  $-100\text{V/A}$ . The minimum gate current for successful triggering is 18mA. Find
- (i) Source resistance
  - (ii) Trigger current
  - (iii) Voltage for the gate power dissipation of 0.2W (7 marks)
- (e) A single phase 20v, 1kw heater is connected across a one phase, 220, 50 HZ supply through an SCR. For firing angle delays of  $45^\circ$  and  $90^\circ$ , calculate the power absorbed in the heater element (6marks)

### QUESTION TWO

- (a)(i) Define the term dual converter (1 mark)
- (ii) Using a diagram explain the operation of an ideal dual converter, include relevant expressions of voltage outputs (9 marks)
- (iii) State the two main effects of source impedance on performance of converters (3 marks)
- (b) A single phase circulating current dual converter is fed by a 220 V single phase, 50HZ AC supply. The load is purely resistive. The peak current of converter 1 is 40 A. The firing angles are  $45^\circ$  and  $135^\circ$  respectively. If the peak circulating current is 12.5 A. Find
- (i) Inductance of current limiting reactor (5 marks)
  - (ii) Load resistance (2 marks)

### QUESTION THREE

- (a) Explain any two main requirements that base drive circuits try to satisfy in an electronic circuit (2 marks)
- (b) Describe the following types of transistor base drive configurations
- (i) Non isolated base driver (4 marks)
  - (ii) Base command without negative power supply (3½marks)
  - (iii) Ant saturation diodes (Bakers clamp) (3½marks)
  - (iv) Isolated base drive circuit (3.5 marks)
  - (v) Transformer coupled base drive with tertiary winding transformer (3 marks)

### QUESTION FOUR

- (a) Define the following terms as they are applied to thyristors
- (i) Latching current  $I_L$  (1 mark)
  - (ii) Holding current (1 mark)
- (b) State any three advantages of Gate Turn off Thyristor (GTO) over SCR (3 marks)
- (c) Using a well labelled diagram explain how current sharing in parallel connected transistors is accomplished using coupled inductors (5marks)
- (d) Explain the three main firing circuit requirements for SCR (4½marks)
- (e) The  $V_g-I_g$  characteristics an SCR is given by  $V_g = 1+9 I_g$  the gate pulses are rectangular with an amplitude of 15V and duration of 40  $\mu s$ . The duty cycle is 0.3
- (i) Find the series resistance  $R_g$  in the gate circuit to limit the peak power loss to 6W (3 marks)
  - (ii) Find the average gate power loss (2 marks)

### QUESTION FIVE

- (a) (i) using a power circuit diagram voltage and current waveforms explain the working of a single phase half wave controlled rectifier with RL load and freewheeling diode (9 marks)
- (ii) State any three advantages of using freewheeling diode (3 marks)
- (b) (i) Draw a well labelled a diagram of a three phase dual convertor (4 marks)
- (ii) A single phase dual convertor is operated from 200v, 50HZ supply, and the load resistant is  $R= 20 \text{ SL}$ . The circulating inductance is  $L_v= 50\text{Mh}$ , delay angles are  $\alpha_2 = 130^\circ$  find the peak circulating current and peak current of converter 1 (4 marks)