



UNIVERSITY  
OF  
JOHANNESBURG

<b><u>QUALIFICATION</u></b>	<b>BCOM HONOURS</b>
<b><u>MODULE</u></b>	<b>RAIL TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT</b>
<b><u>CODE</u></b>	<b>TRE8X07</b>
<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b>JULY 2016 SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION</b>
<b><u>DURATION</u></b>	<b>3 HOURS / 180 MINUTES</b>
<b><u>TOTAL MARKS</u></b>	<b>180 Marks</b>

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<b><u>EXAMINERS</u></b>	<b>DR L PETKOON</b>
<b><u>MODERATOR</u></b>	<b>MR N WALTERS</b>
<b><u>NUMBER OF PAGES</u></b>	<b>2</b>

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

- Question papers must be handed in.
  - This is a closed book assessment.
  - Read the questions carefully and answer only what is asked.
  - Number your answers clearly.
  - Write neatly and legibly
  - Structure your answers by using appropriate headings and sub-headings.
  - The general University of Johannesburg policies, procedures and rules pertaining to written assessments apply to this assessment.
  - Answer all questions.
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**QUESTION 1****(30 Marks)**

A Railway is a capital-intensive organization which is characterised by high fixed costs. Explain how does this impact on its ability to respond to predictable or unpredictable changes or significant up- or downswings in the demand for transport? Contextualise your views in the light of the seminal paper by Robert G. Harris (1977) on the relationship between cost of transport and traffic density.

**QUESTION 2****(30 Marks)**

Compare the relative merits of Standard Gauge rail network compared to Narrow Gauge/Cape Gauge rail networks and recommend a rail gauge strategy for The Southern African Region. Motivate your recommendation.

**QUESTION 3****(30 Marks)**

Analyse the terms and conditions under which you would advise the Department of Public Enterprises to privatise or concession Transnet Freight Rail? Motivate your response by demonstrating your ability to weigh up the pros and cons that would affect your recommendation.

**QUESTION 4****(30 Marks)**

Given the original mandate to the South African Railways and Harbours as legislated in the Union of South Africa Act (the Act of the Union (1910), Clause 127), describe the manner in which the deregulation of transport has made an impact on the development of rail transportation in relation to road transportation in South Africa. Contrast your discussion against the Staggers Rail Act of (1980) in the United States of America which was intended to remedy serious financial woes experienced by major American Railroads during the 1960s and 1970s.

**QUESTION 5****(30 Marks)**

Analyse the inherent advantages and disadvantages of rail transport relative to road transport from a freight perspective. On the basis of your response, motivate whether you believe that rail transport (freight) can compete successfully against road transport in Southern Africa or not.

**QUESTION 6****(30 Marks)**

Access to a National Rail Infrastructure can vary from exclusive access granted to a single operator, to open access for more multiple operators, as the opposite extreme. Identify and briefly discuss three access options that may be considered by a country, as the custodian of the national rail infrastructure and elaborate on the pros and cons of each option. Illustrate your answer with practical international examples.