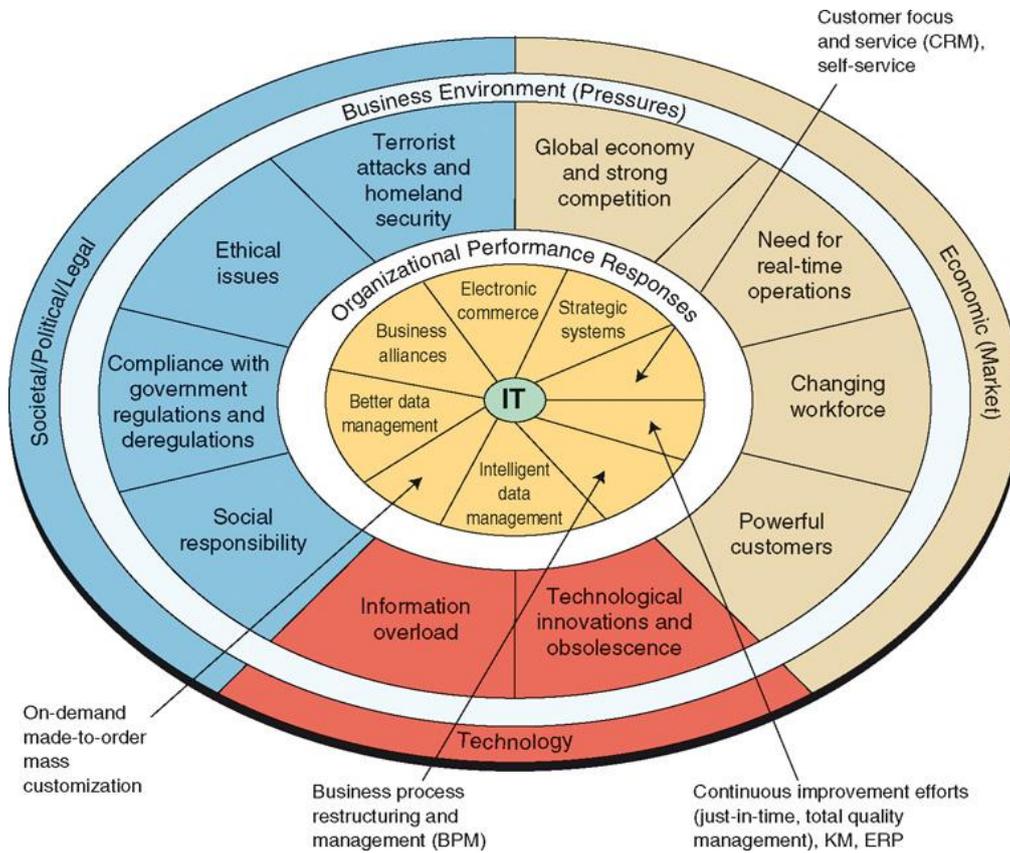1. To fully understand information systems, we need to be aware of the broader organization, people, and information technology dimensions of information systems and their power to provide solutions to challenges and problems in the business environment as shown in Figure below. Consequently, in order to capture the benefits from information systems investments, businesses have to deal with behavioral issues as well as technical issues surrounding the evaluation, development, use, and impact of information system initiatives. Design a research framework with supported theories that reflects this essence. (20%)

2. Modern organizations must compete in a challenging environment. Company must react rapidly to problems and opportunities arising from extremely dynamic conditions. The major pressures confronting modern organizations and how organizations are responding to these pressures can be drawn as figure below. Introduce and describe at least two theories that best capture this scenario. (15%)

Customer focus and service (CRM), self-service

Business Environment (Pressures)

Terrorist attacks and homeland security

Global economy and strong competition

Ethical issues

Need for real-time operations

Societal/Political/Legal

Economic (Market)

Organizational Performance Responses

Electronic commerce

Strategic systems

Business alliances

Compliance with government regulations and deregulations

Better data management

IT

Changing workforce

Social responsibility

Intelligent data management

Powerful customers

Information overload

Technological innovations and obsolescence

On-demand made-to-order mass customization

Technology

Business process restructuring and management (BPM)

Continuous improvement efforts (just-in-time, total quality management), KM, ERP

3. What makes management information systems the most exciting topic in business is the continual change in technology, management of the technology, and the impact on business success. The major new themes in business uses of information systems can be summarized as shown below (Laudon and Laudon, 2011).

Dimension	Major changes
Technology	1. Global computing platforms emerges as a major business area of innovation. 2. Growth in software as a service (SaaS). 3. A mobile digital platform emerges to compete with the PC as business system.
People	1. Managers adopt online collaboration and social networking software to improve coordination, collaboration, and knowledge sharing. 2. Business intelligence applications accelerate. 3. Virtual meetings proliferate.
Organizations	1. Web 2.0 applications are widely adopted by firms. 2. Telework gains momentum in the workplace. 3. Co-creation of business value.

Introduce and describe at least two MIS theories that can appropriately represent these development trends. (15%)

4. There are overwhelming evolvements in social networks. People would find many different social websites among the cyber space. Many people have enlisted in different social groups. Some researches show that some people even have been addicted to certain social networks, so called cyber addicts. If researchers want to investigate further in social networks, what would be your suggestions for them?

(1) What would be the possible research goals for these kind of researches? (10%)

Give your rationale for your suggestions. List reasons to support your suggestions.

(2) What would be the possible contributions of this research? (5%)

According to your research goals, this research would lead to what kind of contributions. List the contributions, and give your reasons for each of them.

(3) What would be the research framework of this research? (20%)

Introduce and describe at least two MIS theories to construct this research framework. List your rationales for applying these theories to construct your research framework.

(4) What would be the orientation of this research? (5%)

Specify the orientation of this research, which could be either a quantitative research or a qualitative research. Give your explanation for the research orientation.

(5) How to perform the verification and validation on the research outcome? (10%)

List the procedures would be performed to assure the quality of the research, and give the explanation for each of them.