1994 Paper 3 Question 10

Structured Hardware Design

A subsystem consists of a microprocessor core, RAM, ROM and a sophisticated DMA engine (which effectively consists of counters and random logic), and is to be built into a wide variety of modules with various peripherals.

Describe the following implementations of the subsystem, considering the merit of each approach, in terms of design effort and cost effectiveness.

(a)	a single chip using full custom design	[6 marks]
(b)	using semi-custom technologies	[6 marks]
(c)	using field programmable logic and standard parts	[6 marks]
(d)	using only standard parts	[2 marks]