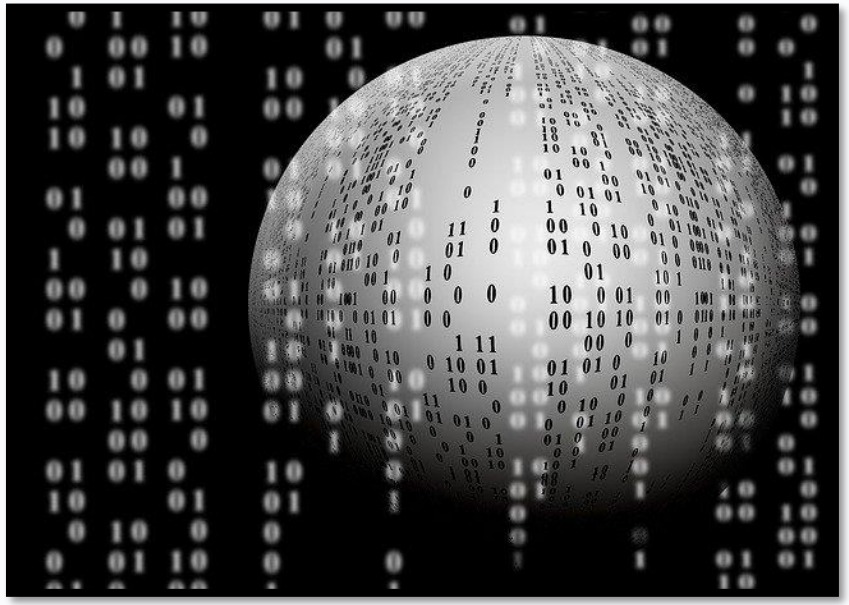
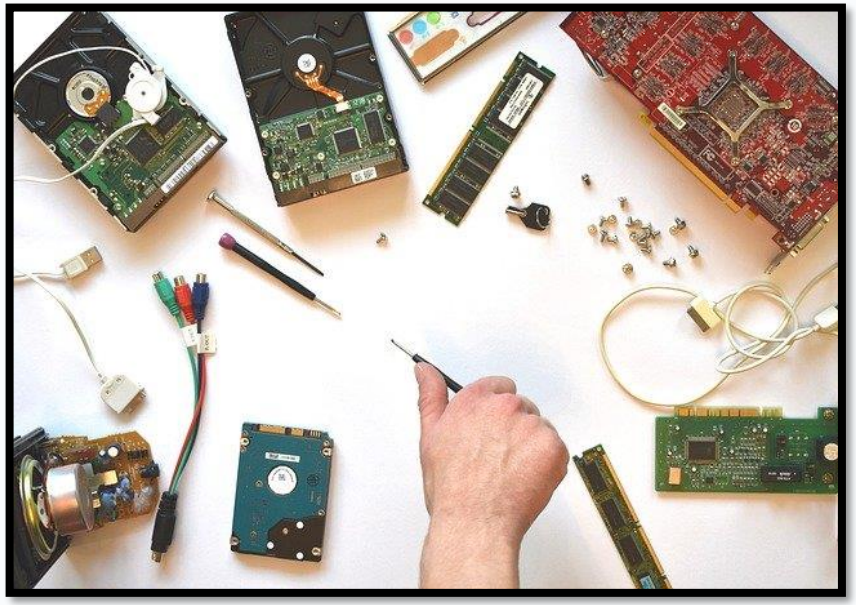
OCR Cambridge Technicals – Level 3
Information Technology

newcollege Doncaster

NAME:

Introductory Diploma in IT
Summer Independent Learning





Introduction & Contents

Welcome to IT @ New College!

In this document you will be completing several independent learning tasks designed to prepare you for some of the early topics of the Level 3 IT course at New College.

It is anticipated that completion of this whole document will take in the region of between 4-6 hours in total, including associated research. Most slides require some kind of input, so please read carefully. Sometimes there will be links signposting you to websites with relevant information, often these will be videos. However, it is important to remember that KS5 study requires you to begin developing your own research techniques, so you are strongly encouraged to read around each topic as widely as possible. There is a 'sources table' on the final slide of the compulsory tasks section and another one at the end of the optional section – please make use of these to show your research and referencing skills.

You will need to ensure that this work is ready for submission in your very first lesson at college in September. This can either be printed or sent to your teacher via email. Good luck and have a great summer!

Contents

1.1 – Computer Hardware

What is a Computer?

A computer is simply a device that takes an input from a user, processes this input (this means to perform a calculation or change the data in some way) and then produce an output.

Computers are made up of both hardware and software. It is important that you understand the basic differences between hardware and software.

Watch the video below before completing the task on the right:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzVSt6jxiqw

Explain, using examples, the various *differences* between **HARDWARE** and **SOFTWARE**.

1.1 – Computer Hardware

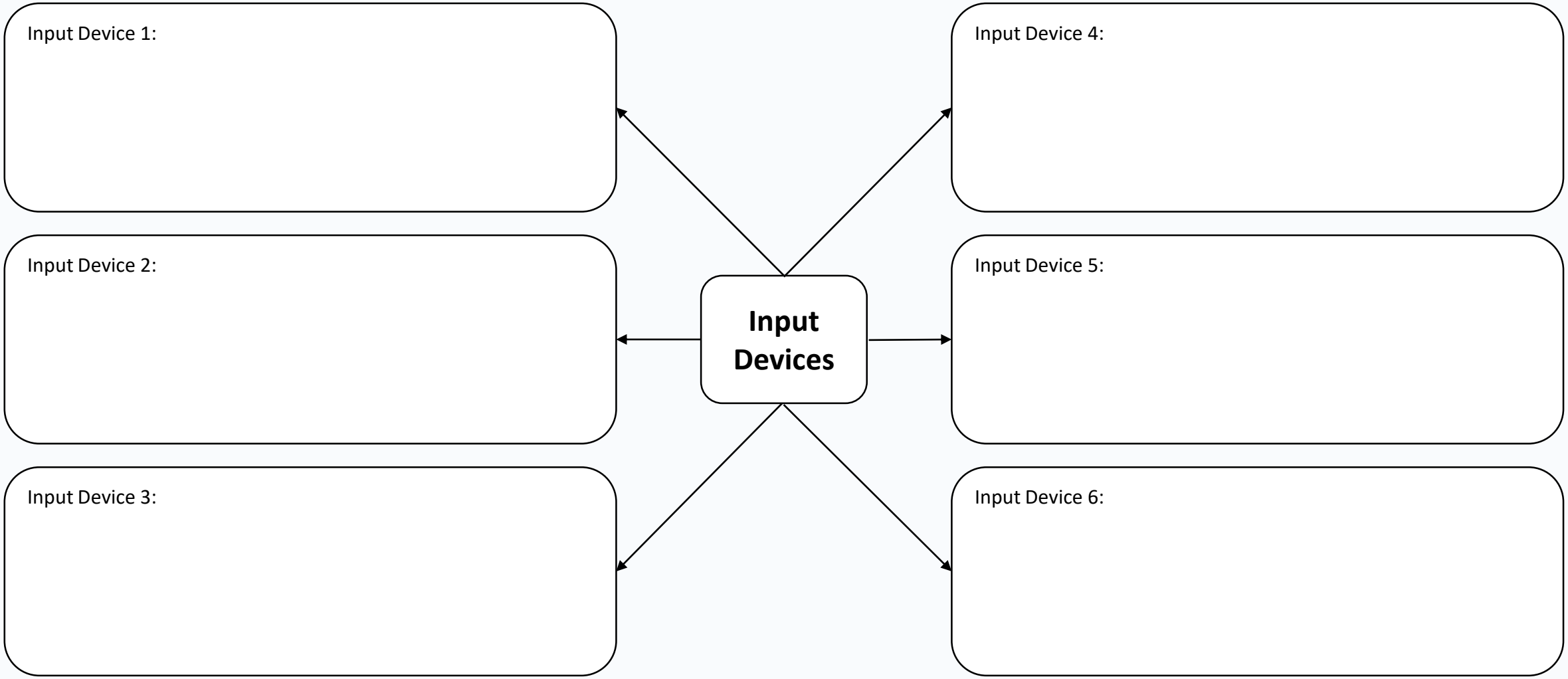
Watch the video below. It contains useful information that will help you complete these tasks:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMzdKTtUIFM

The purpose of a computer can be represented very simply using the above diagram. Briefly explain, using an example, what happens in each of these three stages.

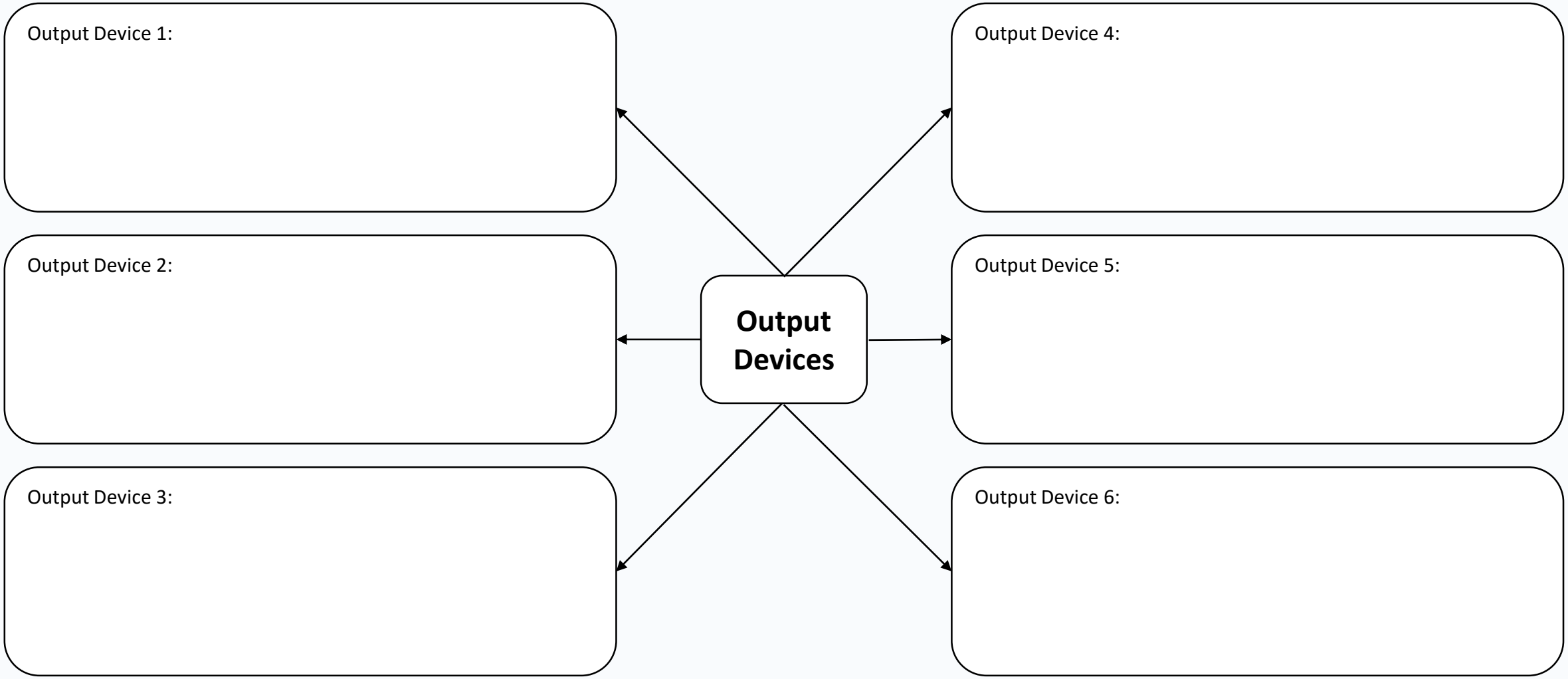
1.1 – Input Devices

Using the boxes below, identify and describe six different input devices of your choice.



1.1 - Output Devices

Using the boxes below, identify and describe six different output devices of your choice.



1.1 – Specialist Devices & Accessibility

Do some research into the various specialist hardware available for users with physical impairments. This mini-website is a useful starting point:

https://www.teach-ict.com/as_a2_ict_new/ocr/AS_G061/312_software_hardware/specialist_hwsw/miniweb/index.htm

Explain, using examples, your understanding of the term '***accessibility***' when relating to computer systems.

On the next three pages, create a mini-presentation about '*specialist hardware for users with physical impairments*'. You need to cover devices for visually impaired users, devices for auditory impaired users and devices for motor impaired users. You should include information about the various specialised hardware available.

1.1 - Specialist Devices for Visually Impaired Users

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1.1 - Specialist Devices for Auditory Impaired Users

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1.1 - Specialist Devices for Motor Impaired Users

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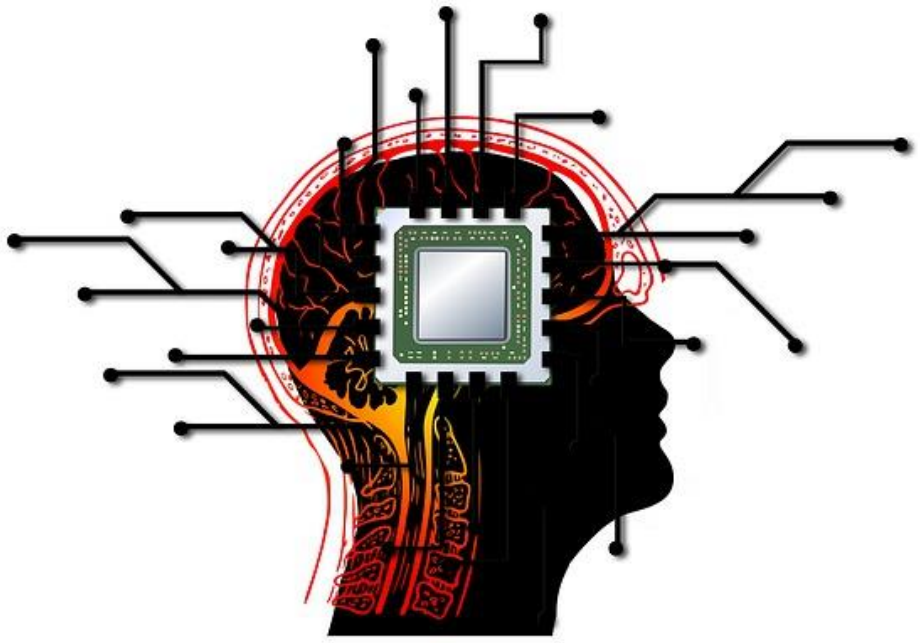
1.2 Computer Components

Complete this table…

Name of Component	Explanation of Role of Component – *'What does it do?'*
CPU / Processor	
Heat Sink & Fan	
HDD / Hard Disk Drive	
GPU / Graphics Card	
PSU / Power Supply	
RAM	
Optical Drive	

1.2 - The CPU

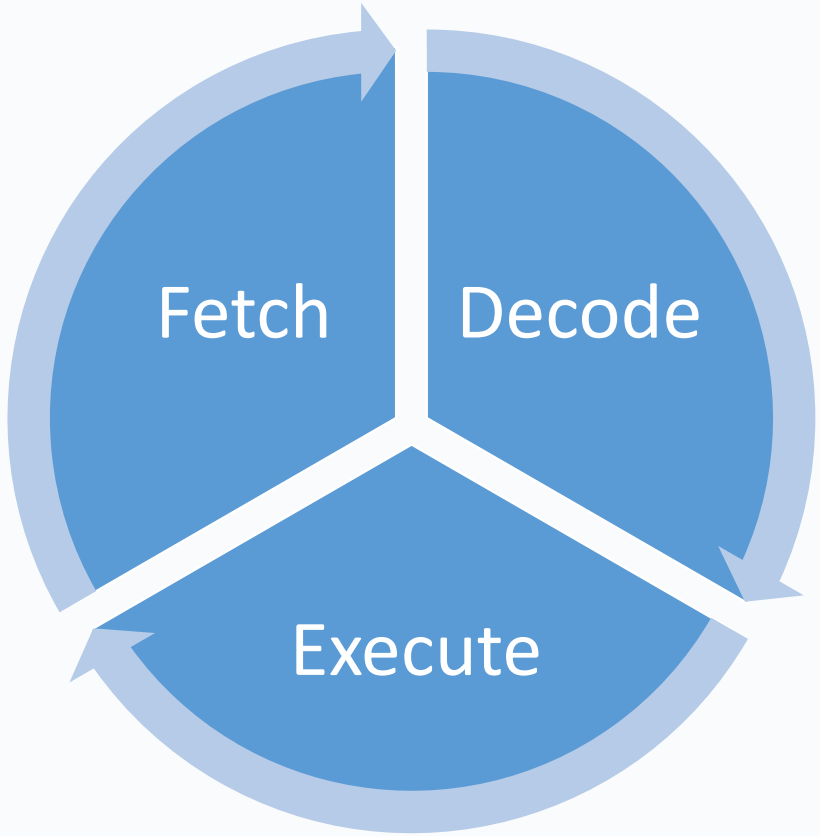


Watch the video below about the CPU – this will be useful when completing the next few tasks:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvgJZvVyJfA

1.2 – The CPU: FDE Cycle

It is important to realise that the CPU follows the 'fetch-decode-execute' cycle. Do some research into the FDE cycle and briefly explain what happens in each stage below.



Fetch	
Decode	
Execute	

Visit the mini-website here for more information about the FDE cycle:

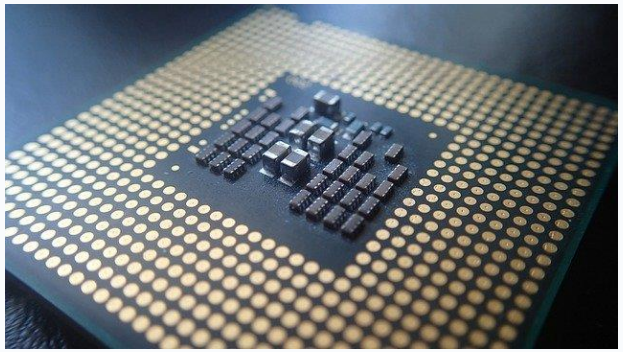
http://teach-ict.com/gcse_computing/ocr/212_computing_hardware/cpu/miniweb/pg3.php

1.2 – The CPU: Performance Factors

There are three main factors that determine the performance of a CPU. These are as follows:

- **Clock speed**
- **Number of cores**
- **Cache size**

In the table on the right, explain how each of these three factors affects the performance of a CPU.



Visit the website link here for more information about these three CPU performance factors:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z7qqmsg/revision/5

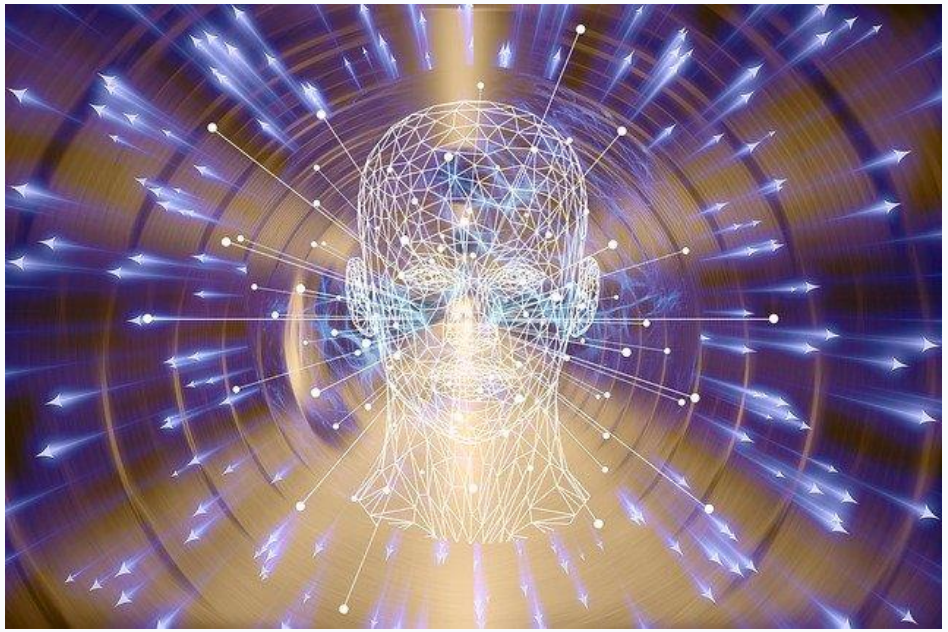
Clock Speed	
No. of Cores	
Cache Size	

1.2 – Memory: Differences of RAM & ROM

Do some research into RAM and ROM (including watching this video):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsH7IGcWSLg

List as many differences between RAM and ROM as you can!
Explain each one (if you can) in order to show greater depth of understanding.

1.2 – Memory: The Need for Virtual Memory



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qr6IPzYW1eY

Watch the above video about 'virtual memory' and then, in your own words, explain the following:

- Why is 'virtual memory' needed?
- How does 'virtual memory' work?
- What are the benefits and limitations of 'virtual memory'?

Why is 'virtual memory' needed?
How does 'virtual memory' work?
What are the benefits and limitations of 'virtual memory'?

1.3 – Types of Computer System

- We have looked at the components of a computer, but they can be put together with different specifications and features to become more **specialised systems**.

How many types of computer system can you list below?

1.3 – PCs Vs Servers

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Desktop/Server Systems	Definitions: What is…?	Where is it Used, and Who By?
Help: https://youtu.be/ByI1PHMcPJQ Servers and desktop machines share similar hardware, so how are they different? Simple guide: https://www.csnewbs.com/1-3typesofcomputersystem	**A Desktop PC:**	**Desktop PC:**
	A Server:	**Server:**

1.3 – Smartphones Vs Tablets

- Many of us have a smartphone and a tablet, but which is best?
  - You decide!

- For the next exercise read these two articles, then on the next slide present your case for which is the *best*, **and why**!

Article 1:
https://www.pcworld.com/article/247387/5_ways_tablets_are_better_than_laptops_or_smartphones.html

Article 2:
https://www.pcworld.com/article/247388/5_ways_smartphones_are_better_than_laptops_or_tablets.html

1.3 – Smartphones Vs Tablets

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Smartphone	Features	Benefits	Limitations	Your overall score (Out of 10)
Add an image here!	List as many as you can here!	What does a Smartphone do especially well?	What does a Smartphone struggle to do?	What would you give it **and why**?

Clues: Remember a system included hardware and software, what can you find out about…

Hardware, battery, screen, OS software, application software (apps), uses, cost, size, weight, portability, and any other features of your choice.

1.3 – Smartphones Vs Tablets

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Tablet	Features	Benefits	Limitations	Your overall score (Out of 10)
Add an image here!	List as many as you can here!	What does a tablet do especially well?	What does a tablet struggle to do?	What would you give it **and why**?

Clues: Remember a system included hardware and software, what can you find out about…

Hardware, battery, screen, OS software, application software (apps), uses, cost, size, weight, portability, and any other features of your choice.

1.3 – Smartphones Vs Tablets

After considering the evidence – your winner is the…
Because…

1.3 – Other Types of Computer Systems

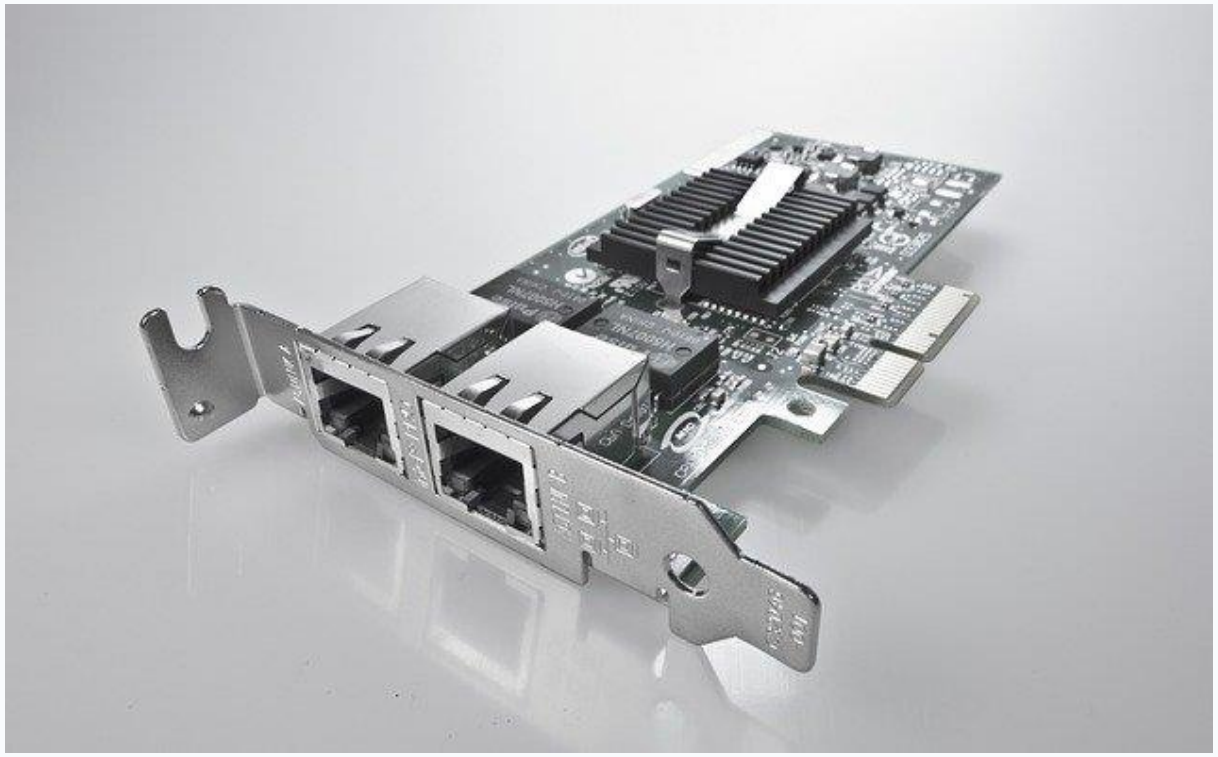
- We will look at the following in more detail when you start the course with us, but what can you find out about:

Embedded Systems	Mainframe Systems	Quantum Systems

Help!

https://www.csnewbs.com/1-3typesofcomputersystem

1.5 – Communications Hardware



What is it?

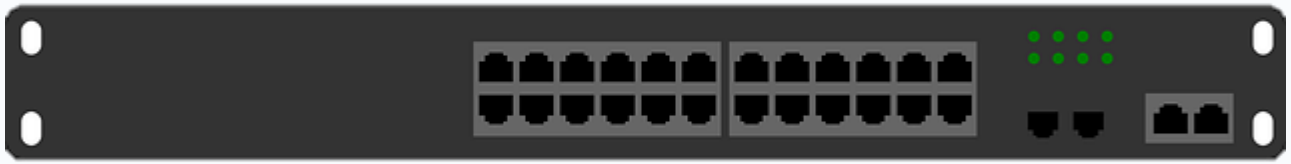
- *Name of hardware*

What does it do?

- *Explanation*

Help: https://youtu.be/R5ihpcOpwQA

1.5 – Communications Hardware



What is it?

- *Name of hardware*

What does it do?

- *Explanation*

Help: https://youtu.be/R5ihpcOpwQA

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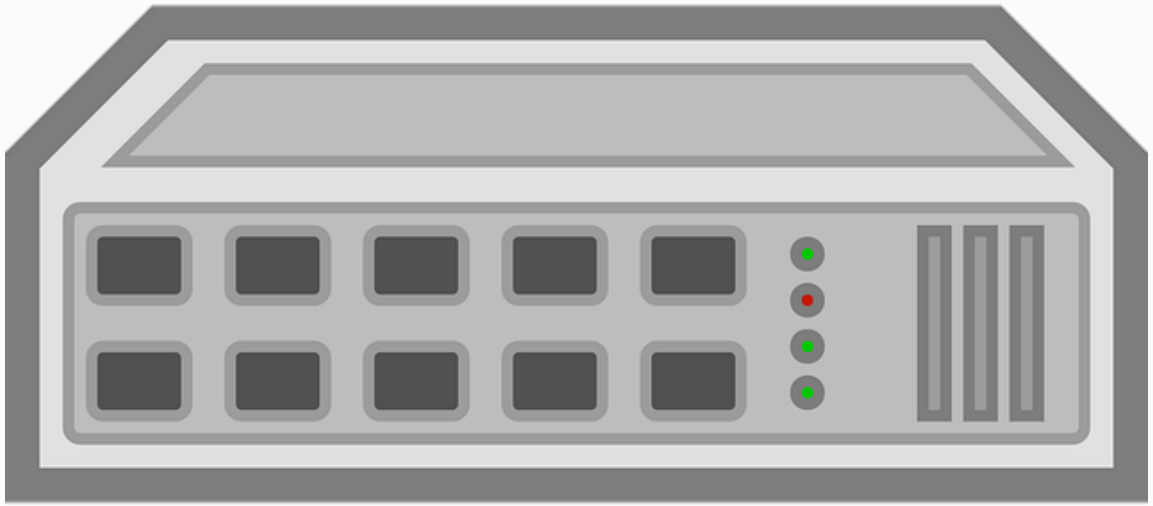


What is it?

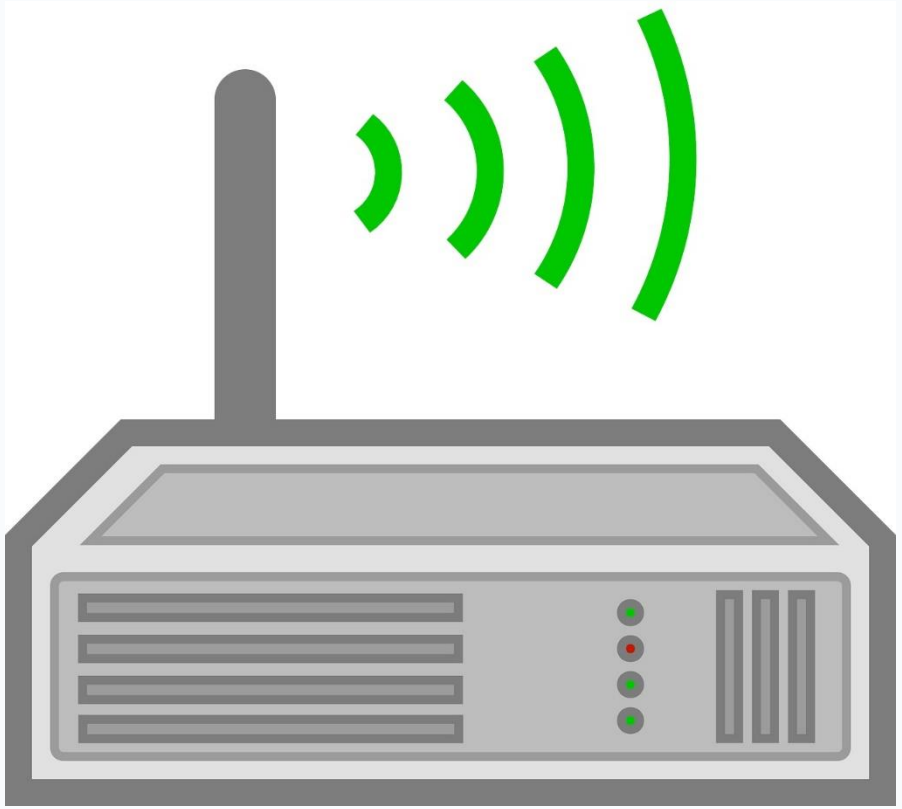
- *Name of hardware*

What does it do?

- *Explanation*

Help: https://youtu.be/R5ihpcOpwQA

1.5 – Communications Hardware



What is it?

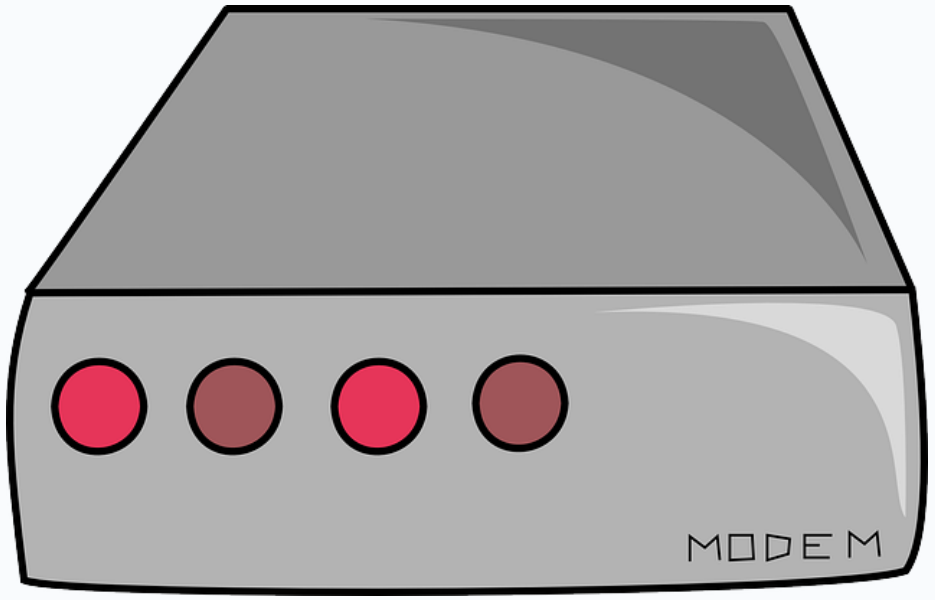
- *Name of hardware*

What does it do?

- *Explanation*

Help: https://youtu.be/R5ihpcOpwQA

1.5 – Communications Hardware



What is it?

- *Name of hardware*

What does it do?

- *Explanation*

Help: https://youtu.be/T4oeyn9Pxsc

Employability & Jobs / Careers in IT

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IT Technician

Person Specification:

Successful applicants will need to demonstrate the following:

- Experience of IT maintenance
- Organisational skills
- Good administration skills
- Problem solving skills
- Knowledge of networking protocols
- Good work ethic
- Good punctuality
- Good numeracy skills
- Excellent communication skills
- Excellent team working skills
- Ability to take initiative
- Possible leadership experience if looking to progress to senior role

Salary £25k / 37.5 hours per week

What are '*transferable skills*'? https://www.reed.co.uk/career-advice/what-are-transferable-skills/

Transferable Skills / Personal Qualities Needed for this Job	WHY are these transferable skills so important in IT jobs?

Above (left) is part of a job advert for an IT Technician. It is outlining some of the transferable skills and personal qualities that the company is looking for in that role. It the table above (right), list the transferable skills / personal qualities needed and explain why these are so important in the IT industry, especially in the role of an IT Technician (someone who repairs & maintains computer systems for other people).

Sources Table

Use the table below to acknowledge any internet (or other) sources that you have used as part of completing this SIL work. It is vital that you get used to keeping a sources table (or 'bibliography') whenever you complete any kind of coursework task in any subject. The first one has been done as an example.

Slide No. / Topic	Source Used	Description
EXAMPLE: Slide 3 – Hardware & Software	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzVSt6jxiqw	YouTube video about hardware and software.