

First Term Exam

Name/Surname: .....	Section: .....
Identification N°: .....	Group: .....

Computers can be divided into five main types, depending on their size and power. These are: mainframes, desktop, PCs, laptops, tablet PCs and personal digital assistants, or PDAs.

Mainframes are the largest and most powerful computers. The basic configuration of a mainframe consists of a central system which processes huge amounts of data very quickly. This central system provides information and computing facilities for hundreds of terminals connected together in a network. Mainframes are used for large-scale computing purposes in banks, universities and big companies.

PCs, or personal computers, carry out their processing on a single microchip. They are usually classified by size and portability. A desktop PC is designed to be placed on your desk. It is used as a home computer or as a workstation for group work.

A laptop, also called a notebook, is a portable computer that has a flat LCD screen and uses batteries for mobile use. The latest models can run as fast as similar desktop computers and have similar configurations. They are ideal for business executives who travel a lot.

A tablet PC is a type of notebook computer that has an LCD screen on which you can write with a stylus or digital pen. Your handwriting is recognised and converted into editable text. You can also input text by using speech recognition or a small keyboard. You can fold and rotate the screen easily.

Finally, a PDA is a lightweight, handheld computer. The term PDA refers to a wide variety of handheld devices, including palmtops and pocket PCs. For input, you type using a small keyboard or you use a stylus, which is a special pen to select item on the screen. PDAs can be as mobile phones, personal organizers or media players. They also let you access the Internet via Wi-fi networks, and some include a GPS navigation system.

### I Reading comprehension

A Read the text and decide whether these sentences are true or false. Correct the false ones. (2pts)

1. A mainframe computer is less powerful as desktop PCs.

2. Unlike a desktop, a mainframe is not portable like a desktop.

3. Laptops are not as powerful as desktop PCs.

4. A Personal Digital Assistant is small enough to fit into your palm.

**B Find in the text words with similar meaning. (1,5pt)**

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 immense = ..... | 4 bend = .....  |
| 2 aims = .....    | 5 large = ..... |
| 3 execute = ..... | 6 split = ..... |

**II Terminology**

**Which terms do these definitions refer to? (3pts)**

- 1 ..... are the physical units attached to the computer.
- 2 ..... means performing operations on data, such as calculating, editing, drawing and searching
- 3 ..... determines how much data can be transmitted.
- 4 ..... is a copy of data or software usually kept in case the original disk is damaged.
- 5 ..... are sockets into which an external device may be connected.
- 6 ..... sends out signals at fixed intervals to measure and synchronize the flow of data.

**III Language work**

**1 Pick up from the text the following: (2pts)**

A a defining relative clause

.....

B a reduced relative clause

.....

C a non-defining relative clause

.....

D A relative clause where the relative pronoun is not a subject or object.

.....

**2 Turn the sentences underlined in the text into passive or active form. (2 pts)**

1 .....

2 .....

3 .....

4 .....

- in the following sentences. (1,5pts)
- 1 Neither the CDs nor the printer were / was available.
  - 2 The data are / is executed by the CPU.
  - 3 Every computer, scanner and printer have / has to be switched off.
  - 4 Statistics, not to mention mathematics is / are studied in different fields.
  - 5 Each of the students in the class have / has a new notebook.
  - 6 The subject you will be studying in this course is / are listed in the syllabus.

4 Reorder the following words to get correct sentences. (2,5pts)

- 1 can/ a / understand / a / user / easily / program.  
.....
- 2 portable / clamshell / laptop / computer / a / with / personal a / is / a .  
.....
- 3 of / do / modern / each / calculations / computers / many / second / billions .  
.....
- 4 using / commonly / are / programming / written / programs / a / language .  
.....
- 5 controlled/ gestures / very / also / new / hand / voice / can / with / or / computers / some / be / commands .  
.....  
.....

4 Put the words between brackets in the following passage into comparative or superlative. (1,5pts)

Modern technology is changing and improving all the time. Every month, scientists invent new gadgets and equipment to help us with our **daily** lives, and discover new ways to make existing technology (good)..... and (fast) ..... Our homes are **full** of hardware and software.

Research suggests, however, that (young) ..... people are (good) ..... able to cope with this **fast** change. Whereas teenagers have no problem operating a DVD player, their mums, dads and grandparents often find using new technology (complicated)..... and different. But if you're a teenager who criticizes his parents for their lack of technological awareness, don't be too **hard** on them! Sometime in the future, when you've got children of your own, your ability to

deal with(new) .....technology will probably decrease and your children will feel (comfortable) .....  
..... with new technology than you do. You won't want them to criticise you, will you?

6 What is the function of the words in bold in the above passage. (1pt)

daily ..... full.....

fast ..... hard.....

7 Correct when necessary the use of tenses in the following letter. (3pts)

Dear Sir,

I was writing to apply for the job of Senior programmer, which is advertised on March, 28<sup>th</sup> in the Times. I graduate in May 2004 and I have done a work placement with British Gas. Before taking my present Job, I was working for a year at NCR. I stayed in this job until March 2006. For the last three years, I worked as a software engineer for Intelligent Software. I am designing four programs in COBOL for commercial use, and since January, I was writing programs in C. Two years ago, I spendd three months testing our programs. I am now feeling ready for more responsibility.

I enclose my Curriculum Vitae. I am available at any time.

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