

2.1 COLLECTING – PAGE 46: QUESTIONS 1 TO 3, 11 TO 15, 191. What is a pointing device?

A pointing device is an input devices that controls an on-screen symbol called a pointer or cursor.

2. Explain the difference between a mouse and a trackball.

A mouse is a small hand-held input device that is moved over a flat surface to control the movement of a pointer. A trackball is a pointing device that is similar to a mouse except that the ball is on top of the device instead of the bottom.

3. How does a touch screen work?

A touch screen enters data by detecting the touch of your finger.

4. What is the difference between a hand-held scanner and a flatbed scanner?

Hand-held scanners are used for entering text and images that is less than a page wide. Flatbed scanners look similar to a small photocopier with the document remaining flat and stationary during the scanning.

11. Why did Christopher Sholes move the most commonly typed letters to positions away from the typist's index finger?

Sholes moved the most commonly typed letters (A, O, E, T, N and S) away from the typist's index fingers.

12. How do OCR devices read text?

Optical character recognition (OCR) devices are scanners that read typed text (and in some cases, handwritten text). First, a scanner produces a digital image of the text. Then the character recognition software matches this image to the shapes of individual characters.

13. Where are barcode readers used extensively?

Barcode readers are used extensively in retail industries to input product identification at point of sale.

14. What is an operating system?

The operating system is the software that supervises and controls the hardware.

15. Describe some characteristics of the UNIX operating system.

UNIX timeshares the host central processing unit (CPU) to be able to run multiple tasks and support multiple users.

2.2 ORGANISING – PAGE 51: QUESTIONS 1 TO 71. What is digitising?

Digitising is the process of translating data into the binary digits (bits) that can be stored and processed by a computer.

2. How is text converted into binary data?

All characters such as letters, numerals, punctuation keys, spaces and special symbols are converted into binary using a standard method of conversion such as ASCII or EBCDIC.

3. What is the sampling rate?

Sound is digitised using a method called sampling. This involves taking a number of samples or 'slices' of the sound wave. This is called the sampling rate.

4. List six main categories of application software used to solve most problems.
 - Paint and draw software is used to create graphics.
 - Multimedia is the presentation of information using text, graphics, animation, audio and video.
 - Word processing is the most widely used application software.
 - Desktop publishing is the use of specialised software to combine text and graphics to create a document.
 - A spreadsheet uses a rectangular grid made up of rows and columns to organise and store data that requires some type of calculation.
 - A database is an organised collection of data.
5. How is data organised in a spreadsheet?

The organisation of data involves entering data into a cell as a label, value or formula.

6. How is data organised in a database?

Data is organised into data structures called files, records, fields and characters.

7. Describe a hard copy system used to organise data.

Hard copy systems involve organising data on paper.

2.3 ANALYSING – PAGE 54: QUESTIONS 1 TO 6

1. Describe two hardware requirements for analysis.

Large amounts of storage are needed to receive and retain data over a period of time. Fast processing is needed to complete the many calculations often required for analysis.

2. What type of processing is needed for complex analysis?

Applications requiring complex analysis use parallel processing. This is the simultaneous processing of instructions using multiple processors or CPUs.

3. What are modelling and simulations?

Modelling and simulations are used to make predictions and examine decisions concerning real situations. A model is a representation of some aspect of the real world and a simulation is the use of that model.

4. What types of computers are used for advanced simulations?

Advanced simulations are performed on large computers such as mainframes.

5. Describe the process of using 'what-if' questions to analyse spreadsheet data.

'What-if' predictions are a powerful feature of spreadsheet software. The software allows the user to make changes to one item of data and observing the effects on other items.

6. List two non-computer tools used for analysis.

Searching manual filing systems to retrieve documents depends on how accurately the data has been organised and sorted. Simulations often involve using complex mathematical processes. A set of rules, relationships and procedures are specified.

7. How can your privacy be eroded if databases are linked for analysis?

Privacy is eroded by linking databases for analysis. Most people in pursuit of society's benefits readily give information about themselves to selected organisations.