

14 Protocols and layers – Part 1 — Answers

Answers

Work through these after trying the questions yourself.

14.1 A set of rules for how devices communicate.

14.2 The format, order, timing, or error handling (any one).

14.3 So each layer has one focused job and can be changed without touching the others.

14.4 Four.

14.5 Application (top) and Link (bottom).

14.6 Each layer can be designed, fixed or upgraded on its own without rewriting the rest — for example, switching from Wi-Fi to cable only changes the Link layer. This makes the system easier to build and maintain.

14.7 Both computers follow the same public protocols (the agreed rules for formatting and sending mail). As long as each obeys the rules, the underlying maker, operating system and software do not matter — they can still understand one another.