

Week 9

IGCSE Computer Science

Homework bundle for this week

本周作业合集

exercises.lol

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1. The ALU in a CPU:

- ☐ performs calculations and logical comparisons
- ☐ sends control signals to other parts
- ☐ stores the running programs
- ☐ connects to the internet

2. Which is an input device?

- ☐ a barcode scanner
- ☐ a projector
- ☐ a speaker
- ☐ a laser printer

3. RAM is volatile (it loses its data without power) and holds the running programs, while ROM is non-volatile and holds the start-up (boot) instructions.

- ☐ True ☐ False

4. Which is true of a MAC address compared with an IP address?

- ☐ the MAC is fixed to the physical device; the IP is given by the network and can change
- ☐ the MAC changes on every network
- ☐ the IP never changes
- ☐ they are the same thing

5. Which change would improve CPU performance?

- ☐ increasing the clock speed or the number of cores
- ☐ using a smaller cache
- ☐ lowering the clock speed
- ☐ removing a core

6. A capacitive touch screen works by:

- ☐ sensing the electric charge of your finger
- ☐ pressing two layers together
- ☐ breaking a grid of light beams
- ☐ reading a barcode

7. A MAC address is normally written in hexadecimal.
- ☐ True ☐ False
8. Cache is small, very fast memory near the CPU that holds often-used data, so the CPU waits less than it would reading from main memory.
- ☐ True ☐ False
9. A laser printer fuses toner powder onto paper with heat, an inkjet sprays tiny drops of ink, and a 3D printer builds an object up in layers.
- ☐ True ☐ False
10. A device's IP address can change depending on the network it is using.
- ☐ True ☐ False

1. performs calculations and logical comparisons

The arithmetic logic unit does the maths and logic; the control unit manages the parts.

2. a barcode scanner

A scanner brings data in. Projectors, speakers and printers are output devices.

3. True

Volatile vs non-volatile is the key split: RAM forgets when powered off, ROM remembers.

4. the MAC is fixed to the physical device; the IP is given by the network and can change

The MAC stays with the device (set by the maker, written in hex); the IP depends on the network and can change.

5. increasing the clock speed or the number of cores

More cores, a larger cache and a higher clock speed all improve performance.

6. sensing the electric charge of your finger

Capacitive screens detect the finger's charge (multi-touch, used in phones); resistive presses layers; infrared breaks beams.

7. True

MAC addresses are written in hexadecimal (e.g. AC:DE:48:00:11:22).

8. True

A bigger cache, more cores and a higher clock speed all raise performance — cache helps by cutting the wait for data.

9. True

Three different output technologies: laser (toner + heat), inkjet (sprayed ink), 3D (layer-by-layer).

10. True

IP addresses are assigned by the network, so the same device can have different IPs on different networks.

3.1 Computer architecture

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 9 marks

KEY WORDS clock speed 时钟速度 • embedded system 嵌入式系统 • cache 高速缓存 • cores 核心
• fetch–execute cycle 取指执行周期

Objective

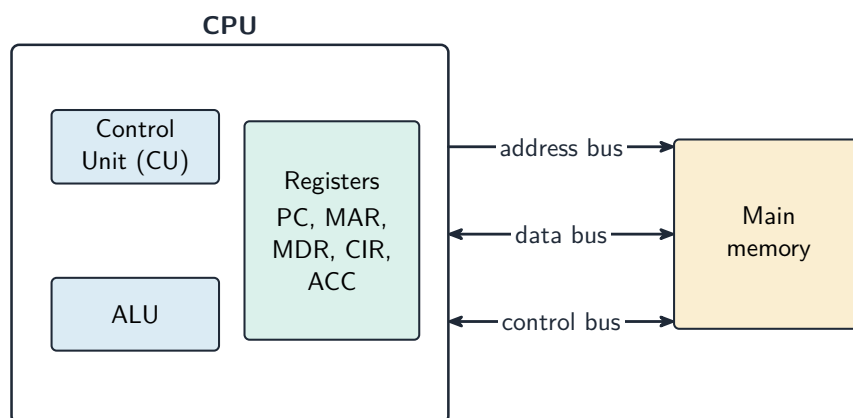
Build the skills to answer exam questions on **computer architecture** 计算机体系结构 — the CPU parts, the **fetch–execute cycle** 取指执行周期, **cache** 高速缓存, and CPU performance.

You must be able to:

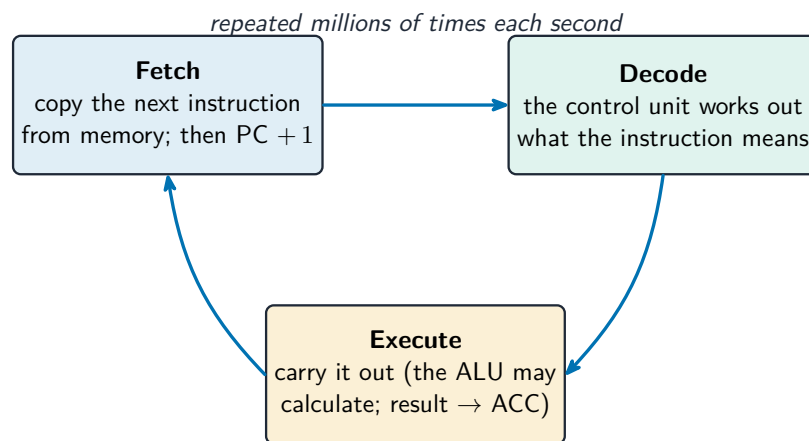
- name the CPU parts (ALU, CU, registers) and the buses
- describe the fetch–decode–execute cycle
- explain what affects CPU performance and what an embedded system is

1 Worked examples

■ The CPU and the cycle



The CPU holds the CU, ALU and registers; the address, data and control buses link it to memory



The CPU repeats: fetch the instruction, decode it, then execute it

- performance ↑ with more **cores**, a larger **cache**, and a higher **clock speed**.

2 Practice

2.1 State the function of the ALU. [1]

2.2 Name the three stages of the fetch–execute cycle. [3]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Cache memory speeds up the CPU because it: [1]

- **A** stores data permanently
- **B** is very fast memory holding frequently used data
- **C** has no power needs
- **D** is part of secondary storage

3.2 A computer is upgraded.

(a) State two changes that would improve CPU performance. [2]

(b) State what is meant by an embedded system, with one example. [2]

Solutions

2.1 it carries out calculations and logical operations.

2.2 fetch; decode; execute.

3.1 B. Cache is fast memory holding frequently used data.

3.2 (a) any two of: more cores; larger cache; higher clock speed.

(b) a small computer built into a device to do one fixed job; e.g. a washing machine or microwave.

6 A computer with a Von Neumann architecture has a central processing unit (CPU).

(a) Complete the statements about the operation of the CPU.

Use the terms from the list. **Not** all terms will need to be used. You should only use each term once.

- accumulator arithmetic logic unit character set
- control unit current instruction register cipher decoding set
- instruction counter instruction set memory address register
- memory data register memory instruction register next instruction register
- program counter program register

The stores the address of the next instruction to be fetched. This address is then sent to the

This address is the location in RAM where the instruction can be found. The instruction is retrieved from RAM and immediately stored in the

The instruction is then sent to the where it is decoded by the The instruction is decoded using an

[6]

(b) Handling interrupts is one function of an operating system.

(i) An interrupt is sent to the CPU every time a key is pressed on the keyboard.

Give the name of this type of interrupt.

..... [1]

(ii) Give the name of the program that services the interrupt.

..... [1]

(iii) Give **one** other function of an operating system.

..... [1]

- 4 A computer with a Von Neumann architecture has a central processing unit (CPU) that performs the fetch–decode–execute (FDE) cycle.
- (a) Complete and annotate the diagram to show how instructions are decoded and executed.



[5]

- (b) The CPU is dual core and has a processor speed of 2.4 GHz.

Describe what is meant by a core.

[2]

- (c) Explain **two** ways that the performance of the CPU could be increased.

5 A central processing unit (CPU) performs the fetch–decode–execute (FDE) cycle.

(a) Give the name of **two** registers that are used in the fetch stage of the cycle.

1

2 [2]

(b) Describe what happens at the decode stage of the cycle.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [3]

(c) Give **one** register in the CPU that is used in the execute stage of the cycle.

..... [1]

(d) Buses are used in the CPU to transmit data through the FDE cycle.

Circle **three** buses that are used in the CPU.

fetch

address

register

execute

data

decode

calculation

central

value

binary

control

[3]

(e) A user changes their CPU from one with a dual core and a clock speed of 2.4 GHz to one with a dual core and a clock speed of 3.5 GHz.

Explain the effect this change will have on the performance of the CPU.

.....

.....

.....

..... [2]

6 A computer programmer uses assembly language to create a computer program for an embedded system in a washing machine.

(a) State what is meant by an embedded system.

.....

..... [1]

(b) Give the name of the translator that will be used for the program.

..... [1]

(c) The washing machine needs to display error codes on a small screen if there is a problem with the washing machine.

The error codes are stored as binary. The binary numbers are too long to be displayed on the washing machine.

State how the error codes could be reduced in length to be displayed on the screen.

..... [1]

(d) Give **one** benefit to the programmer of using assembly language to write the program.

.....

..... [1]

- (e)** The programmer uses an integrated development environment (IDE) to write the program.

A built-in translator to convert the program into machine code is one way that the IDE helps the computer programmer.

Describe **three** other ways the IDE can help the programmer.

[6]

6 The table contains names and descriptions of components in a central processing unit (CPU).

Complete the table by giving the missing component names and descriptions.

Component name	Description
.....	sends signals to manage the flow of data through the CPU
program counter	
.....	stores the address of the data that is about to be fetched from random access memory (RAM) into the CPU
.....	transmits data between the RAM and the CPU
accumulator	
.....	stores an instruction when it is being decoded

[6]

3 An instruction is fetched from random access memory (RAM) into the memory data register (MDR) to be decoded.

(a) Identify **two** other registers that are used in the fetch stage of the cycle.

1

2

[2]

(b) Complete and annotate the diagram to show how the data is decoded once it has been fetched into the MDR.



[4]

5 Instructions are processed by a central processing unit (CPU) in a computer.

(a) Complete the paragraph about fetching an instruction into the CPU to be processed.

Use the terms from the list.

Some of the terms in the list will **not** be used. You should only use a term once.

- address
- arithmetic logic unit (ALU)
- binary
- control unit (CU)
- current instruction register (CIR)
- data
- denary
- driver
- fetch
- interrupt
- memory address register (MAR)
- memory data register (MDR)
- random access memory (RAM)
- read only memory (ROM)
- secondary storage
- signal

The program counter contains the
of the next instruction to be processed; this is then sent to the
..... using the address bus. The address is then
sent to the
Once the address is received, the instruction stored at the location is
sent to the, using the
..... bus. The instruction is then
sent to the that is built into the
.....

[7]

(b) The CPU uses an instruction set to decode the instruction.

State what is meant by an instruction set.

.....
..... [1]

8 A student has a computer that has a central processing unit (CPU).

(a) Describe the role of the CPU in the computer.

[2]

(b) The CPU contains registers.

(i) State the purpose of a register.

[1]

(ii) Give **three** registers that are built into the CPU.

1

2

3

[3]

(c) One component in the CPU is the arithmetic logic unit (ALU).

Describe the purpose of the ALU.

[3]

(d) The student wants to replace the CPU to increase the performance of the computer.

Explain why a different CPU can increase the performance.

[4]

2 A computer has a central processing unit (CPU).

The CPU includes the registers:

- Program counter (PC)
- Memory address register (MAR)
- Memory data register (MDR)
- Accumulator (ACC)
- Current instruction register (CIR).

(a) The table contains **five** statements about the role of registers in the fetch–decode–execute cycle of a CPU.

Letter	Statement
A	PC stores the address of the next instruction to be accessed
B	MAR stores the instructions of the program that is running
C	MDR stores the data passed to it from the PC
D	ACC stores the result of each calculation
E	CIR stores the instruction currently being executed

Two of the statements are **not** correct.

Identify the letter of each incorrect statement.

Suggest a corrected statement for each.

Incorrect statement 1

Corrected statement
.....
.....

Incorrect statement 2

Corrected statement
.....
.....

[4]

(b) The computer has a single core 3.5 GHz processor and an 8 kB cache.

(i) State what is meant by a 3.5 GHz processor.

.....
..... [1]

(ii) The CPU is changed to a dual-core 3.5 GHz processor.

Explain how the number of cores affects the performance of a CPU.

[2]

(iii) The amount of cache is increased to 64 kB.

Explain how the amount of cache affects the performance of a computer.

[2]

(c) The computer has both primary and secondary storage.

(i) Random access memory (RAM) is one example of primary storage.

Describe what is meant by RAM.

[2]

(ii) Read only memory (ROM) is another example of primary storage. ROM often stores the start-up instructions for a computer.

Identify **one** other item of data that is commonly stored in ROM.

[1]

(iii) Some computers make use of virtual memory.

State the purpose of virtual memory.

[1]

1 A student uses a computer and several hardware devices to complete his schoolwork.

The computer has a central processing unit (CPU).

(a) The student uses a keyboard to complete his schoolwork.

Tick (✓) **one** box to show which type of device the keyboard is.

- A

input

☐
- B

memory

☐
- C

output

☐
- D

storage

☐

[1]

(b) The student uses a printer to print his schoolwork.

Tick (✓) **one** box to show which type of device the printer is.

- A

input

☐
- B

memory

☐
- C

output

☐
- D

storage

☐

[1]

(c) A component in the CPU sends signals to manage the fetch-decode-execute cycle.

State the name of this component.

..... [1]

(d) The CPU has a clock speed of 2.4 Ghz.

Describe what is meant by a 2.4 Ghz clock speed.

.....

.....

.....

..... [2]

(e) The CPU contains registers including the memory data register (MDR).

(i) Describe the role of the MDR in the fetch-decode-execute cycle.

[2]

(ii) Identify **three** other registers contained in the CPU.

1

2

3

[3]

3 A user’s computer has a central processing unit (CPU) that has a clock speed of 2 GHz.
She wants to change it to a CPU that has a clock speed of 3 GHz.

(a) (i) State what is meant by clock speed.

.....
..... [1]

(ii) Explain the effect this change will have on the performance of the CPU.

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

(b) The CPU contains a memory address register (MAR).

Describe the role of the MAR in the fetch–decode–execute cycle.

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

(c) The CPU has a list of all the machine code commands it can process.

State the name of this list of commands.

..... [1]

4 A washing machine is an example of an embedded system.

(a) Give **two** characteristics of an embedded system.

1
.....
2
.....
[2]

(b) Circle **three** other examples of an embedded system.

freezer

laptop

personal computer (PC)

security light system

smartphone

vending machine

web server

[3]

3.2 Input and output devices

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 7 marks

KEY WORDS input and output devices 输入输出设备 • barcode scanner 条形码扫描器 • speaker 扬声器
• touch screen 触摸屏 • actuator 执行器

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **input and output devices** 输入输出设备 — how common devices work and choosing a suitable device.

You must be able to:

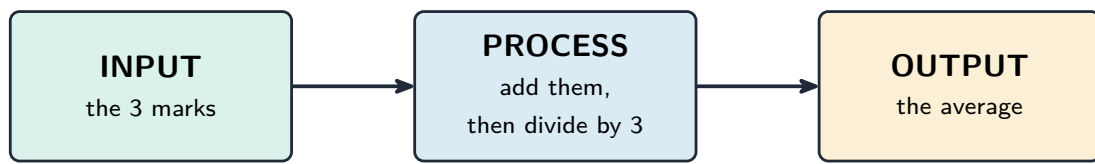
- describe how input devices (scanner, sensor, touch screen) work
- describe how output devices (printers, actuator, speaker) work
- choose a suitable device for a task

1 Worked examples

■ Input and output



Input sends data in; output sends data out to the user



Input devices feed the processor, which drives output devices

- **input:** barcode scanner (reads reflected light), sensor (measures a quantity), touch screen.
- **output:** inkjet/laser/3D printer, monitor, speaker, **actuator** (signal → movement).

2 Practice

2.1 State whether a sensor is an input or an output device.

[1]

2.2 State what an actuator does.

[1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Which is an output device?

[1]

- **A** keyboard
- **B** microphone
- **C** speaker
- **D** barcode scanner

3.2 A supermarket uses a barcode scanner at the checkout.

(a) Describe how a barcode scanner inputs data.

[2]

(b) Name a suitable output device to print a paper receipt, and say why.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 an input device.

2.2 it turns an electrical signal into movement.

3.1 C. A speaker is an output device.

3.2 (a) it shines light at the bars and reads the pattern reflected back; this is sent to the computer as the product code.

(b) an inkjet (or laser) printer; because it can print the receipt quickly on paper.

2 A student has an image file stored on their computer.

(a) The image file was taken by a digital camera.

Tick (✓) **one** box to show whether a digital camera is an example of an input, output, process or storage device.

- A

input

☐
- B

output

☐
- C

process

☐
- D

storage

☐

[1]

(b) The size of the image file is 3072 bytes.

(i) Give the size of the image file in kibibytes (KiB).

..... [1]

(ii) State the number of nibbles in 1 byte.

..... [1]

Working space

.....

.....

.....

.....

(c) The image file has a colour depth of 32 bits.

(i) State what is meant by a colour depth of 32 bits.

.....

..... [1]

(ii) The colour depth of the image file is changed to 64 bits.

Explain what effect this change has on the image file.

.....

.....

.....

(d) The student uses lossless compression to compress the image file.

Explain how the image file is compressed using lossless compression.

[3]

2 A student has a smartphone.

(a) Identify **two** input devices that can be built into the smartphone.

- 1
- 2 [2]

(b) Identify **two** output devices that can be built into the smartphone.

- 1
- 2 [2]

(c) The smartphone contains secondary storage.

(i) Explain the purpose of the secondary storage in the smartphone.

-
-
-
- [2]

(ii) Identify the most suitable type of secondary storage for the smartphone.

Explain your choice.

Secondary storage type

Explanation

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
- [4]

4 A student has a smartwatch.

(a) The smartwatch has built-in input and output devices.

Identify **two** input devices that can be built into the smartwatch.

- 1
- 2 [2]

(b) Identify **one** output device that can be built into the smartwatch.

..... [1]

(c) The smartwatch has read only memory (ROM).

Explain why the smartwatch needs ROM.

.....

.....

.....

..... [2]

(d) The smartwatch uses a text message application that receives data from cloud storage.

(i) Describe what is meant by cloud storage.

.....

.....

.....

..... [2]

(ii) Explain **two** benefits of the application using cloud storage.

- 1
-
-
-
- 2
-
-
-

(e) The smartwatch only displays the time and text messages.

A student incorrectly describes this smartwatch as a general-purpose computer.

Explain why the student’s description is incorrect.

[2]

8 A robot vacuum cleaner uses sensors to navigate around obstacles in a room.

(a) Tick (✓) **one** box to show which sensor would be the most suitable for this purpose.

- A

proximity
- B

flow
- C

pressure
- D

level

[1]

(b) An expert system can be used to diagnose an error with a robot vacuum cleaner.

Circle **three** components that are part of an expert system.

- knowledge base

operating system

firewall
- server

printer

actuator

inference engine
- rule base

encryption

[3]

(c) Explain how the robot vacuum cleaner can make use of machine learning.

[3]

1 A student has a portable tablet computer.

(a) Identify **two** input devices that could be built into the portable tablet computer.

- 1
- 2 [2]

(b) Identify **one** output device that could be built into the portable tablet computer.

..... [1]

(c) Identify **one** type of storage device that could be built into the portable tablet computer.

..... [1]

6 A sensor is an input device that is used to capture data from its surrounding environment.

(a) Circle **three** other input devices.

- touch screen

hard disk drive (HDD)

headphones

speaker

microphone

actuator

universal serial bus (USB) drive

printer

keyboard

[3]

(b) Sensors can be used in an automated system.

Give **two** benefits of using sensors in this type of system.

- 1
-
- 2
- [2]

(c) The table contains different types of sensors and a use for each.

Complete the table by giving a suitable use for each type of sensor. The first one has been done for you.

type of sensor	use
acoustic	to monitor whether a water pipe has cracked and is leaking and dripping onto the floor
temperature	
humidity	
infra-red	
magnetic field	

[4]

5 A farm has an automated drinking system for its animals. The drinking system has a water bowl that contains the water. When the water bowl is empty, it is automatically refilled.

The system uses a sensor and a microprocessor.

(a) Identify the most appropriate sensor for this system.

..... [1]

(b) Describe how the sensor and the microprocessor are used to automatically refill the water bowl.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [6]

3.3 Data storage

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 9 marks

KEY WORDS secondary storage 辅助存储 • virtual memory 虚拟内存 • data storage 数据存储 • memory 内存
• volatile 易失性

Objective

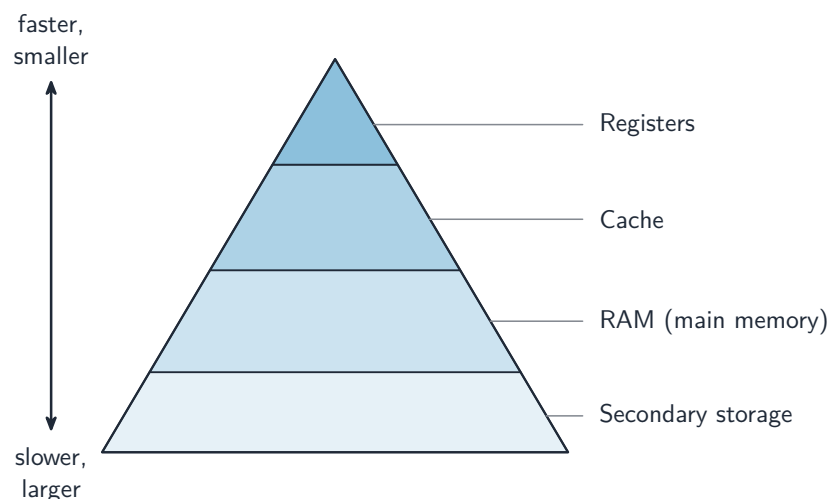
Build the skills to answer exam questions on **data storage** 数据存储 — **RAM/ROM** 内存, **secondary storage** 辅助存储, and **virtual memory** 虚拟内存.

You must be able to:

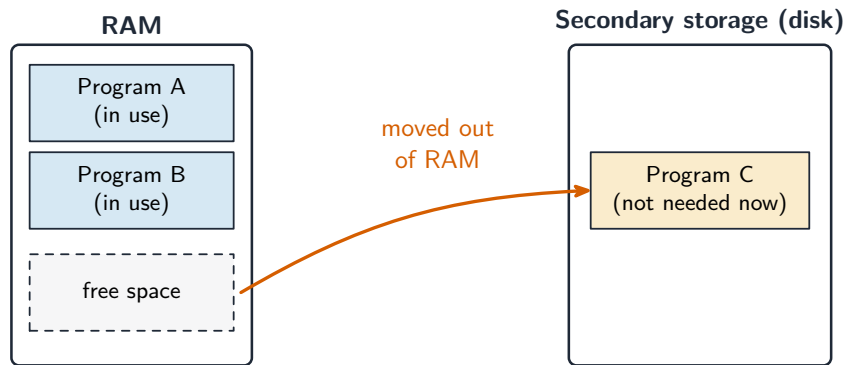
- compare RAM and ROM (volatile/non-volatile, read/write)
- describe magnetic, optical and solid-state secondary storage
- explain virtual memory

1 Worked examples

■ Memory and storage



Registers/cache: fast but small; secondary storage: slow but large



This frees RAM, so more programs can run than RAM alone could hold — but it is slower, because the disk is much slower than RAM.

When RAM is full, unused data is moved to disk to free RAM — slower, but runs more programs

- **RAM:** volatile, read/write. **ROM:** non-volatile, read-only (start-up).

2 Practice

2.1 State whether RAM is volatile or non-volatile.

[1]

2.2 Name the three types of secondary storage.

[3]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 ROM is used to store:

[1]

- **A** programs in use now
- **B** the start-up instructions
- **C** files permanently
- **D** virtual memory

3.2 A computer uses virtual memory.

(a) Explain what virtual memory is.

[2]

(b) State one disadvantage of using virtual memory. [1]

3.3 State one difference between an SSD and an HDD. [1]

Solutions

2.1 volatile.

2.2 magnetic; optical; solid state.

3.1 B. ROM stores the start-up (boot) instructions.

3.2 (a) part of secondary storage used as extra (pretend) RAM; unused data is moved there to free RAM, so more programs can run.

(b) it is slower (secondary storage is slower than RAM).

3.3 an SSD has no moving parts / is faster (an HDD uses spinning magnetic disks).

7 A student’s computer has primary storage. One example of primary storage is random access memory (RAM).

(a) Identify **one** other example of primary storage.

..... [1]

(b) Explain why RAM is an example of primary storage and **not** secondary storage.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
..... [3]

(c) The student is editing a large video file for a project and during this process the RAM becomes full. This makes the computer crash.

Describe how virtual memory could be used in this process to stop the computer crashing.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
..... [3]

(d) The computer uses solid-state (flash memory) storage.

(i) Give **two** features of solid-state (flash memory) storage.

- 1
-
- 2
-
- [2]

(ii) Give **two** examples of solid-state (flash memory) storage.

- 1
- 2

10
- [2]

5 A computer uses both random access memory (RAM) and secondary storage.

(a) State the purpose of secondary storage.

.....

..... [1]

(b) One type of secondary storage is optical.

Circle **three** examples of optical storage.

- read only memory (ROM) secure digital (SD) card compact disk (CD)
- hard disk drive (HDD) digital versatile disk (DVD)
- Blu-ray disk universal serial bus (USB) drive solid-state drive (SSD)

[3]

(c) Explain why a computer needs RAM.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [3]

(d) The computer processes instructions using the fetch–decode–execute (FDE) cycle.

Draw and annotate a diagram to show the process of the **fetch** stage of the FDE cycle.

9 A company uses both solid-state and optical secondary storage.

(a) Explain why a computer needs secondary storage.

[2]

(b) Describe **three** differences between solid-state and optical storage.

1

2

3

[6]

4 The table contains statements about types of secondary storage.

Complete the table by writing the correct type of secondary storage for each statement.

type of secondary storage	statement
.....	Pits and lands are created on a reflective surface.
.....	NAND or NOR technology is used.
.....	Platters are spun that are divided into tracks and sectors.
.....	Electromagnets are used to read and write data.
.....	Transistors are used as control gates and floating gates.
.....	A red or blue laser is used to read and write data.

[6]

5 A computer uses both random access memory (RAM) and read only memory (ROM).

(a) Tick (✓) **one** box to show which statement is correct about RAM.

- A

It is non-volatile storage.

☐
- B

It stores the bootloader.

☐
- C

It stores data that is currently in use.

☐
- D

It is **not** directly accessible by the central processing unit (CPU).

☐

[1]

(b) ROM is a type of primary storage.

State the characteristic of ROM that makes it a type of primary storage.

.....

..... [1]

8 Storage can be described as being magnetic, solid-state or optical.

(a) Give **two** features of magnetic storage.

- 1
-
- 2
-
- [2]

(b) Give **three** features of solid-state storage.

- 1
-
- 2
-
- 3
-
- [3]

(c) Give **one** example of each type of storage.

- Magnetic
- Solid-state
- Optical
- [3]

13 Storage and memory are important components of a computer system.

(a) Primary storage is one type of storage in a computer system.

(i) Tick (✓) **one** box to show which is an example of primary storage.

- A

compact disk (CD)

☐
- B

hard disk drive (HDD)

☐
- C

random access memory (RAM)

☐
- D

solid-state drive (SSD)

☐

[1]

(ii) Give **one** characteristic of primary storage.

..... [1]

(b) Virtual memory can be created in a computer system.

Complete the description about virtual memory.

Use the terms from the list.

Some of the terms in the list will **not** be used. Some terms may be used more than once.

- binary

hard disk drive (HDD)

hexadecimal

operating system
- pages

random access memory (RAM)

read only memory (ROM)
- sectors

software

tracks

virtual memory

Virtual memory is used when the is full. It is
created by partitioning the Data is divided into
..... that can be sent from
..... to the
..... to be temporarily stored until they are required.

[5]

3 Secondary storage devices are used to store data in a computer.

(a) Circle **three** components that are secondary storage devices.

central processing unit (CPU) compact disk (CD)

hard disk drive (HDD) random access memory (RAM) read only memory (ROM)

register sensor solid-state drive (SSD)

[3]

(b) Tick (✓) **one** box to show which statement about secondary storage is correct.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| A It is directly accessed by the CPU. | ☐ |
| B It is magnetic storage only. | ☐ |
| C It is used to permanently store software and data files. | ☐ |
| D It is volatile. | ☐ |

[1]

3.4 Network hardware

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 7 marks

KEY WORDS network interface card 网络接口卡 • router 路由器 • network hardware 网络硬件

Objective

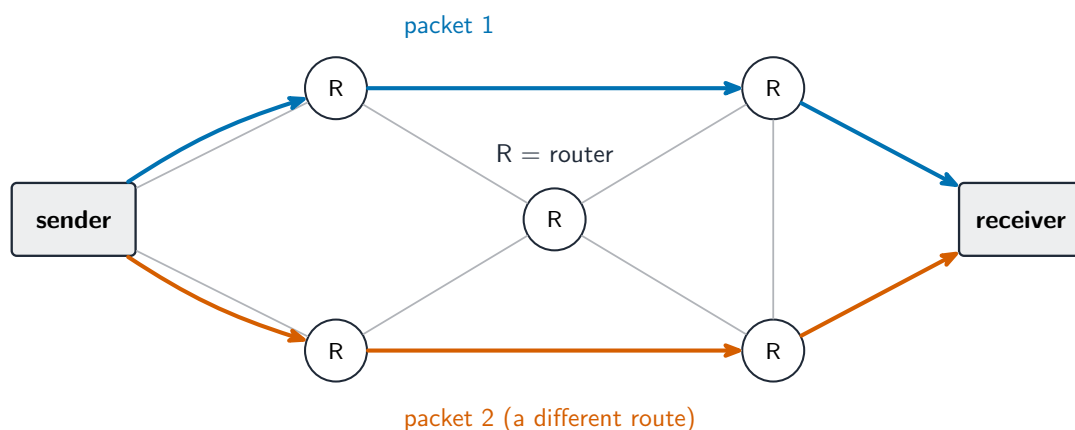
Build the skills to answer exam questions on **network hardware** 网络硬件 — the **NIC** 网络接口卡, **MAC** and **IP addresses**, and the **router** 路由器.

You must be able to:

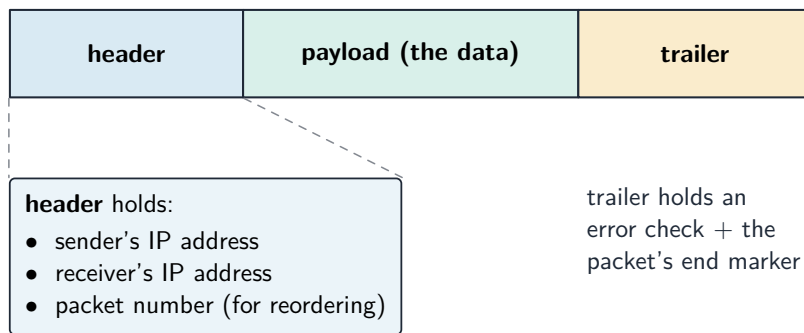
- state the function of a NIC
- compare a MAC address and an IP address
- describe the function of a router

1 Worked examples

■ Network hardware



A router connects networks and forwards packets using their IP addresses



Network hardware routes data split into packets

- **NIC:** lets a device join a network; holds a built-in MAC address.
- **MAC:** identifies one physical device, set by the maker, does not change.
- **IP:** given by the network, can change.

2 Practice

2.1 State the function of a network interface card (NIC). [1]

2.2 State the function of a router. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A MAC address is best described as: [1]

- **A** given by the network and changeable
 - **B** a unique number set by the maker, identifying a device
 - **C** the same as a packet number
 - **D** a web address
-

3.2 A device connects to a network.

(a) State two differences between a MAC address and an IP address. [2]

(b) Explain how a router uses the IP address in a packet. [2]

Solutions

2.1 it lets a device join a network and send/receive data.

2.2 it connects different networks and forwards packets towards the right network.

3.1 B. A MAC address is a unique number set by the maker.

3.2 (a) a MAC address is set by the maker and does not change; an IP address is given by the network and can change.

(b) the router reads the receiver's IP address in the packet header; and forwards the packet towards that network.

5 A computer is connected to a network.

- (a) The computer has a network interface card (NIC) that has a media access control (MAC) address.
- (i) One purpose of the NIC is to provide the computer with a MAC address.

Describe the other purposes of the NIC.

[2]

- (ii) Identify **three** characteristics of a MAC address.

1

2

3

[3]

- (b) The network allocates an internet protocol (IP) address to the computer.

- (i) Tick (✓) **one** box to identify a valid IPv4 address.

A

110:255:2:1

B

1.30.2FF.A9

C

3.162.74.3

D

8.0.257.6.8

[1]

(ii) Identify the device in a network that can automatically assign an IP address to a computer, each time the computer connects to the network.

..... [1]

(c) A user accesses the world wide web using a web browser.

(i) Define the term world wide web.

.....
..... [1]

(ii) The uniform resource locator (URL) for a website includes the protocol hypertext transfer protocol secure (HTTPS).

Explain how HTTPS makes the transmission of data secure.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
..... [4]

(iii) The protocol is one part of a URL.

Give the other **two** parts of a URL.

1
.....
2
.....
..... [2]

7 A computer has both a media access control (MAC) address and an internet protocol (IP) address.

(a) Tick (✓) **one** box to show which of the statements is correct about the MAC address.

- A

It is assigned by the manufacturer.

☐
- B

It is assigned by a router.

☐
- C

It can be static or dynamic.

☐
- D

It is made up of three different parts.

☐

[1]

(b) An IP address can have an IPv4 or IPv6 format.

(i) Give an example of an IP address that has an IPv4 format.

..... [1]

(ii) Give **two** characteristics of the IPv6 format.

- 1

.....

.....
- 2

.....

.....

[2]

6 A user wants to connect their computer to a network.

(a) (i) Identify the component in the computer that is needed to access a network.
..... [1]

(ii) Identify the type of address that is allocated to the component by the manufacturer, which is used to uniquely identify the device.
..... [1]

(b) A dynamic internet protocol (IP) address is allocated to the computer when it is connected to the network.

(i) Identify the device on the network that can connect multiple devices and automatically assign them an IP address.
..... [1]

(ii) Describe what is meant by a dynamic IP address.
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
..... [3]