

1.4 Types of computer

- Describe the characteristics of a personal/desktop computer and its uses, both as a standalone and networked computer
- Describe the characteristics of a laptop computer and what it is used for, both as a standalone and networked computer
- Describe the characteristics of a tablet computer and what it is used for, including its ability to use wireless technology or 3G/4G technology
- Describe the computer characteristics of a smartphone and what it is used for in computing terms
- Describe the advantages and disadvantages of each type of computer

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1.4 Types of computer

Describe the characteristics of a personal/desktop computer and its uses, both as a standalone and networked computer



Desktop/Personal Computer

- Computers used to be huge and would sometime take up the whole space of a room.
- In the 1980s (desktop/personal) computers were created and were small enough to fit on desks.
- These computers were cheap and affordable for the public.
- Desktop Computer normally have a separate monitor, keyboard, mouse, speakers etc.

Standalone

- Can be used as a standalone computer in your home for personal or work use.
- Tends to be connected to own printer and internet connection.

Networked

- Share resources
- Share files
- Shared Drives
- Central Storage
- Online Gaming

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1.4 Types of computer

Describe the characteristics of a laptop computer and what it is used for, both as a standalone and networked computer



Laptop Computer

- Laptops refers to a computer where all the components (monitor, keyboard etc.) are together on a single device.
- The main advantage of a laptop computer is that it is portable and can connect wirelessly to network connections.

Standalone

Can be used for either personal or work use.

- Completing work
- Communication
- Gaming

Networked

- **Connect to Internet**
- Share resources
- Share files
- Shared Drives
- Central Storage
- Online Gaming

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Describe the characteristics of a tablet computer and what it is used for, including its ability to use wireless technology or 3G/4G technology



Tablet Computer

- Tablets are very similar to smart phones.
- They have an internet connection via a wireless connection including 3G/4G.
- Tablets make use of touch screen technology to select options on a menu or to select particular icons.
- Applications can be downloaded and installed.
- Sensors including speech recognition.

Wireless

Tablets are able to connect to any wireless networks.

Users are able to use the internet as long as they are in range.

3G/4G

4G is a mobile communications standard intended to replace 3G, allowing wireless Internet access at a much higher speeds.

Would allow for internet connection on the move.

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Describe the computer characteristics of a smartphone and what it is used for in computing terms



Smart Phone

- Smart phones can use traditional methods to make phone calls and send messages using mobile network.
- Smart phones have operating systems which allows them to run multiple applications.
- Like the Tablets Computers Smart Phones have many features including:
 - Touch Technology
 - Internet connection (Wireless/3G/4G)
 - Sensors
 - Cameras





Use

- Send and receive emails
- Browse the internet
- Voice over Internet Protocol (Voip) – voice/video calls.
- Streaming music/video content
- Communication via social networking applications
- Global Positioning System – to help navigate

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1.4 Types of computer

Describe the advantages and disadvantages of each type of computer

Type	Advantages	Disadvantages
Desktop/Personal Computer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Always connected to the mains.• Monitors can come in any sizes• Can be upgraded and parts easily replaced.• Tend to have a higher specifications than laptop computers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not portable• Takes up more desk space.• Separate components like keyboard, mouse, monitor, speakers etc.• Loose cables which could be trip hazards.
Laptop Computer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Its portable due to small size and weight.• Battery can be recharged.• Can connect wireless to internet.• No loose cables. All components connected together.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited battery life.• Laptops are difficult to repair and upgrade.• Can be stolen or lost.• Some users find it difficult to use pointing device.
Tablet Computer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High definition anti glare display.• Wireless , 3G/4G & Bluetooth connection.• Data can backed up or synchronised with other devices.• Touch screen technology• Battery life longer than a mobile phone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited memory compared to laptops.• Expensive to use 3G/4G internet• Typing can be more difficult compared to a normal keyboard.• Not all files are compatible with tablets.
Smart Phone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small in size and easier to carry around.• Can be used whilst on the move using wireless or 3G/4G Connectivity.• Touch screen technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small screens make it difficult to read.• Battery life is short• Could be misplaced or stolen• Limited storage/memory compared to other types of computers.• Slow data transfer rates