

1.2 SOFTWARE & SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT · 1.2.2

Applications, utilities & open vs closed source

Original practice questions · 34 marks · about 45 minutes · spec 1.2.2(a)(b)(c)

Instructions. Answer all questions. The number of marks is shown in brackets []. Quality of written communication is assessed in the extended-response question.

1

Total: 4 marks

This question is about types of software.

- (a)** Explain the difference between systems software and applications software. [2]

- (b)** State how an application differs from a utility. [1]

- (c)** State which category of software an operating system belongs to. [1]

2

Total: 6 marks

This question is about utility software.

- (a)** Describe what is meant by a *utility program*. [2]

- (b)** Give **two** examples of utility software, explaining the purpose of each. [4]

3

Total: 6 marks

A small business is buying new software.

- (a) State the most appropriate type of application software for each task: (i) producing the company newsletter; (ii) calculating staff wages; (iii) storing customer details. [3]

- (b) Explain one advantage of bespoke (custom-written) software over off-the-shelf software. [2]

- (c) State one disadvantage of bespoke software. [1]

4

Total: 4 marks

This question is about open and closed source software.

- (a) State what is meant by *open source software*. [2]

- (b) Give one example of open source software. [1]

- (c) State what is meant by *closed source software*. [1]

5

Total: 5 marks

This question compares open and closed source software.

- (a) Explain one benefit to a user of open source software. [2]

- (b) Describe one drawback of closed source software compared with open source software. [3]

A company is deciding whether to run its office systems on **open source** or **closed source** software.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of open source and closed source software for the company, and justify a recommendation.

[9]

END OF QUESTIONS