



1.2.1 BIOS, Device Drives & Virtual Machines

1. Dave has several computing devices around his office. Each device has an operating system installed.

- a) Dave has a PC which has a Basic Input Output System (BIOS).

Describe what is meant by the term 'BIOS'.

[2 marks]

- b) Describe what the effect would be to a computer if it had its BIOS overwritten

[2 marks]

2. Operating systems make use of device drivers.

Define what is meant by the term 'device driver', giving **one** example of a device driver that a home user would need.

[3 marks]

3. A software development company is building an operating system for a mobile phone that is in the process of being designed.

- a) Explain how the developers could use virtual machines.

[2 marks]

4. Explain why the programmers of anti-virus software may make use of virtual machines when developing anti-virus software.

[3 marks]

5. A programmer is writing a game to run on a variety of game consoles. Discuss the different ways in which they might use virtual machines in this process and any advantages and disadvantages of doing so.

[9 marks]

