



1.2.2 Nature of Applications

1. Sevim owns a boutique in her local town. Sue purchased a new computer for her business so she can complete her accounts, write letters to her customers and keep a record of her customer's details.

She intends to install a database application software on her computer.

- a) State **one** additional type of application software Sevim could install and give an example of what she might use it for.

[2 marks]

Any suitable package and example. Must be related to the business and not brand names (E.g. Word, Excel, etc)

- **Word processor**
- **... to write letters to customers**
- **Spreadsheets**
- **... for completing accounts**
- **DTP**
- **... for creating marketing literature**
- **Graphics Package**
- **... for editing marketing photos**

2. Jim needs a piece of software in help catalogue his photographs.

- a) Define the term 'software'.

[1 mark]

- **A program / instructions that run on hardware**

- b) Give **two** reasons why you would **not** recommend that Jim has this software custom written.

[2 marks]

- **He would have to wait for the software to be made**
- **It will cost more to produce**
- **Support will not be easily available as there is no user community**
- **Off-the-shelf software is likely to have been tested by many users**
- **There are likely good off the shelf alternatives**





3. A company specialises in the testing and repair of valves in industrial situations.

- a) One part of their work is to test the pressure at which the valve will fail. This is done by taking various readings and then inputting them into a program which will output the predicted failure pressure.

Explain why this software will be custom-written.

[1 mark]

- It is a 'one-off' problem
- There will be no off the shelf solution
- Information used in the software may be commercially sensitive to the company

4. Anti – virus software is an example of a utility.

- a) Define the term 'utility'.

[2 marks]

- A program with one purpose / piece of system software
- ... used for the upkeep and maintenance of the system

- b) State how an application differs from a utility.

[1 mark]

- Application software performs tasks for the user, whereas utility software performs maintenance or management tasks for the computer system

- c) Give **two** other examples of utility software, explaining the purpose of both.

[4 marks]

Any suitable example of a utility and its purpose.

- Encryption
- ... scrambles the meaning of data files with a key

- Defragmentation
- ... organises file segments on secondary storage

- Compression
- ... reduces size of files

- Back up
- ... makes regular copies of files in case of loss

