JS1 - BASIC COMPUTER HARDWARE COMPONENTS

Meaning of Hardware: Computer hardware refers to the physical parts of a computer that can be seen and touched. E.g keyboard, mouse, monitor, system unit, printer and speakers.

Basic Computer Hardware Components

The basic components of a computer are:

1. **Monitor**: The monitor displays text, pictures, videos and other information on the screen.
2. **Keyboard**: The keyboard is used to enter letters, numbers, symbols and commands into a computer.
3. **Mouse:** The mouse is used to point, click, select and move items on the computer screen.
4. **System Unit**: The system unit houses important components such as the motherboard, processor, memory and storage drive.
5. **Printer:** A printer produces information from a computer on paper.
6. **Speakers:** Speakers produce sound from the computer.

Input and Output Devices

Input Devices: Input devices are hardware components used to enter data and instructions into a computer. Examples and their functions:

Device	Function
Keyboard	Enters text, numbers and symbols.
Mouse	Points, clicks and selects items.
Scanner	Converts paper documents or pictures into digital form.
Microphone	Enters sound or voice into a computer.
Webcam	Captures pictures and videos.
Joystick	Controls movement in computer games.
Touchscreen	Accepts input when the user touches the screen.

Output Devices: Output devices are hardware components that present the results of computer processing to the user.

Device	Function
Monitor	Displays information visually.
Printer	Produces information on paper.
Speakers	Produce sound.
Headphones	Allow a user to listen to sound privately.
Projector	Displays computer images on a large screen.
Plotter	Produces large drawings, plans and designs.

Remember: Input devices send data into the computer, while output devices present information from the computer.

Identification of Devices

A computer device can be identified by its appearance and function. (Input Device)
Keyboard Identification: Has many keys with letters, numbers and symbols.(Input Device)
Mouse Identification: A small pointing device with buttons, often with a scroll wheel. (Input Device)
Monitor Identification: A screen used to display information. (Output device)
Scanner Identification:Usually has a flat glass surface where documents are placed for scanning.(Input device)
Printer Identification: Has a paper tray and produces printed documents. (Output device)

Simple Computer Maintenance Practices

Computer maintenance means taking proper care of a computer to keep it working well and to prevent damage. Important maintenance practices include:

1. **Keep the computer clean**: Wipe dust from the computer with a soft, dry cloth.
2. **Keep liquids away**: Do not place water or drinks near the computer.
3. **Handle devices carefully**: Avoid dropping the keyboard, mouse or other components.
4. **Ensure proper ventilation**: Do not block the computer's air vents.

5. **Shut down properly**: Use the operating system's shutdown option instead of switching off the power suddenly.
6. **Protect against power problems**: Use a suitable surge protector or UPS where available.
7. **Use antivirus protection**: Keep security software updated and avoid suspicious files.
8. **Keep food away**: Food crumbs can enter the keyboard and attract insects.
9. **Arrange cables properly**: Prevent cables from being pulled, damaged or tripped over.
10. **Seek professional assistance**: Do not open the system unit or repair internal components without proper knowledge and supervision.

Safety rule: Switch off and unplug equipment before cleaning its exterior. Never pour liquid directly onto a computer.

TICKET OUT

1. What is computer hardware?
2. What is the function of a monitor?
3. Cut and paste the diagrams of keyboard, monitor, mouse, system unit, Printer and scanner.