JS1 - BASIC SOFTWARE CONCEPTS

Meaning of Software

Software is a set of instructions or programs that tells a computer what to do and how to perform different tasks.

Types of Software

There are two major types of software:

1. System Software
2. Application Software

A. System Software

System software is a type of software that controls and manages the computer and helps other programs to work properly. It serves as a link between the computer hardware and the user.

Examples of System Software:

- Windows 10
- Windows 11
- Linux
- Android
- macOS
- Device drivers

Functions of System Software:

1. It controls the activities of the computer.
2. It manages the computer's memory.
3. It helps the computer to start up.
4. It controls computer hardware such as the keyboard, mouse and printer.
5. It allows application software to work.
6. It manages files and folders.

B. Application Software

Application software is a type of software designed to help users perform specific tasks. It helps people to carry out their daily activities on a computer.

Examples of Application Software:

1. Microsoft Word: Used for typing letters, notes and documents.
2. Microsoft Excel: Used for calculations, tables and keeping records.
3. Microsoft PowerPoint: Used for creating presentations.
4. Google Chrome: Used for browsing the internet.

Differences Between System Software and Application Software

System Software	Application Software
It controls the computer.	It helps users perform specific tasks.
It manages computer hardware.	It helps users do their work.
It is needed for the computer to operate.	It is installed to perform particular tasks.
Example: Windows.	Example: Microsoft Word.
Example: Linux.	Example: Microsoft Excel.

Meaning of Operating System (OS)

An Operating System (OS) is a system software that controls and manages all the activities of a computer. It acts as a link between the user and the computer hardware.

In simple words, an operating system helps us communicate with and use a computer.

Examples of Operating Systems:

- Microsoft Windows
- Linux
- macOS
- Android
- iOS

Functions of an Operating System

The following are the major functions of an operating system:

1. Starting the Computer: It helps the computer to start when it is switched on.
2. Managing Files: It helps users to create, save, open, copy and delete files and folders.
3. Managing Memory: It controls how the computer uses its memory.
4. Managing Hardware: It controls devices such as the keyboard, mouse, printer and monitor.
5. Running Programs: It allows application programs like Microsoft Word and Excel to work.
6. Providing User Interface: It provides a way for users to communicate with the computer through icons, menus and windows.
7. Providing Security: It helps protect the computer from unauthorised access using passwords and other security features.
8. Managing Tasks: It allows the computer to run different programs and perform different activities.

Evaluation Questions

Answer the following questions in your exercise books.

1. What is software?
2. Mention the two major types of software.
3. Define system software.
4. Give four examples of system software.
5. What is application software?