Q: What is Software?

A: It is collection of instructions usually written in a high level programming language that allows a computer to perform a task. It is loaded into RAM to run.

Q: Name some systems software?

A: This is software which usually comes with the computer to make it useable and updateable. Operating system, drivers, server software, firmware.

Q: Name some utility software?

A: this is software which usually comes with the computer and allows you to perform maintenance tasks or protect your computer in some way. Firewalls, defragmenters, disk cleanup, anti-virus, calendars etc.

Q: What is multi-tasking?

A: The processor does a single task so fast it allows time to do another straight after, and another after that. Although things are not done “at the same time”, it works so fast that it APPEARS to run “at the same time”.

Q: What is a Graphical User Interface (GUI)?

A: A Graphical User Interface – Allows the operation of a computer through graphics. Usually Windows, Icons, Menus, Pointer (WIMP) (Windows, IOS, Android etc)

Q: What is a Command line Interface?

A: Allows the operation of a computer through codes typed in.

Q: What is a Voice input Interface?

A: Allows the operation of a computer through speech (Siri, Google echo etc).

Q: What is a device driver?

A: A device driver is a piece of code that has been written for a computer to understand how to use a particular peripheral (printer, mouse, scanner etc)

Q: What is Firmware?

A: It is software stored on ROM chips to boot up a machine.

Q: What is server software?

A: It is software that looks after computers (clients) on a network. It gives the client access to files, printers, Internet, security etc.

Q: What does a firewall do?

A: It blocks suspicious incoming/outgoing signals from a computer. Sometimes comes with a computer but you can buy it in (AVG, Norton, Mcaffee)

Q: What does a defragmenter do?

A: Files can be split into fragments over time on the hard drive, slowing your computer down. A defragmentation tool puts these back together, speeding your computer up.

Q: Software development tools

A: Software that allow you to program in a high level programming language and create runnable applications.

Q: what does a compiler do?

A: a compiler turns the high level programming code into machine code so the computer can run it. If there is an error in the code, IT WILL NOT RUN.

Q: what does an interpreter do?

A: An interpreter turns the high level programming code into machine code so the computer can run it. If there is an error in the code, IT WILL RUN UNTIL IT HITS THE ERROR.

Q: what does an assembler do?

A: An assembler turns the low level assembly language code into machine code so the computer can run it. Assembly language is the closest language to machine code but does still have a language which is “English-like”.

Q: What is a software application?

A: Software that allows us to do a specific thing. Word, Excel, Call of Duty, Internet Explorer etc

Q: What is “off the shelf” software?

A: Software that is widely available and allows you to perform tasks that most other people would want to do. (e.g. Write a letter = Word Processor, Accounts = Spreadsheets)

Q: What is “bespoke” or custom written software?

A: Software that is written specifically for a task that is not normally done or is unusual in some way?