

Examinations

GCSE Business and ICT Practice Question

Games Shop



Dave and Amanda want to set up a games shop. They know that they will need a cash register, but they do not know what software they need. Please could you advise them as to what software they will need.

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Teacher's Notes

Hints

Think about how they are going to:

- Do their accounts
- Create flyers
- Display in-store promotional messages
- Track stock

(These could be displayed on the board or given individually to weaker students)

Answer

This task is based on the GCSE Business and communications exam, but could also be used in ICT modules. Key items that students should be mentioning include:

- Database / Stock control system / EPOS system
- Desktop Publishing package / Word Processor
- Accounts system / Spreadsheet
- Presentation software for displaying sales messages.
- Computer / laptop
- Demonstration games consoles / PCs

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Example Answer - Games Shop

There are a number of pieces of software and hardware that would be useful for your shop. I don't know which model of cash register you are looking at, but better EPOS terminals can help to track stock via their bar-codes and this information could be linked into your accounts. In the beginning your software needs are relatively modest and free software such as open office has a spreadsheet, presentation software, basic DTP functionality and a database. You can buy a second hand till and an old PC and then as you grow you can look at the options below.

I would suggest once you are established that you have at least two PCs in the store, one well-specced Desktop to show the games and another PC which you can do your business accounting on. It maybe a good idea to have a laptop for this, because you can take it home at the end of the day. It is also a good idea to have demo consoles available for use and a screen input switching device. Most LCD and Plasma screens can support both PC and TV inputs. It is also useful to have a laser printer for printing day to day documents and a colour inkjet for sales promotions. If you plan to print a lot of flyers then you may want to buy a colour laser printer.

Most businesses prefer to have accounting software (e.g. Sage accounts) rather than a basic spreadsheet. The advantage of this is that it will generate all the correct forms, but the disadvantage is that they tend to be inflexible. For basic Flyers Open Office is sufficient, but if you want to do more complex designs or print professional then a more professional package such as Quark Express or Adobe In Design would be better. If you plan to have screens for demoing games then it is useful to have a presentation package such as PowerPoint so that you can share key sales messages with customers. These can also be on display when the shop is closed.

In conclusion the hardware and software can be setup relatively cheaply and can grow to help increase your sales and reduce your administrative overhead.