G.C.E. O/L Grade 10 ICT · Lesson 5

Lesson 5 O/L Exam Practice: Questions and Answers

These questions are in the style of the O/L ICT exam. Paper I has multiple choice questions. Paper II has structured questions with parts, model answers and marking points. They cover all of Lesson 5 (5.1 and 5.2): what an OS is, interfaces, OS types and functions, utilities, drives, folders, paths, file extensions and file operations. Try them first, then check the answers.

Paper I – Multiple choice questions (25)

1. Which of the following is an operating system?

A. Google Chrome
B. Android
C. Microsoft Word
D. WhatsApp

2. The correct order of layers from the user to the hardware is

A. application → user → OS → hardware
B. user → hardware → OS → application
C. user → application → OS → hardware
D. user → OS → application → hardware

3. Which is a proprietary operating system?

A. Ubuntu
B. Debian
C. Linux Mint
D. macOS

4. MS-DOS mainly used a

A. voice interface
B. command line interface
C. graphical user interface
D. touch interface

5. An advantage of a GUI over a CLI is that it

A. is easy for beginners to learn
B. needs no hardware
C. uses less memory
D. has no icons

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6. Pinching to zoom a photo on a tablet uses a

A. batch system
B. voice interface
C. touch interface
D. command line interface

7. A hospital heart monitor that must react instantly needs a

A. real time OS
B. distributed OS
C. single user OS
D. command line OS

8. An OS that lets 30 students log in to one server with their own accounts is

A. single tasking
B. single user
C. real time
D. multi user

9. Cloud services where thousands of computers work as one system use a

A. real time OS
B. distributed OS
C. CLI
D. single user OS

10. Which OS function gives RAM to programs?

A. File management
B. Security management
C. Memory management
D. Device management

11. Task Manager in Windows mainly shows information about

A. disk partitions
B. file extensions
C. files in the Recycle Bin
D. processes using the CPU and memory

12. Fingerprint login and a firewall are part of

A. security management
B. partitioning
C. memory management
D. process management

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13. Why should OS updates be installed?

A. They remove the need for RAM
B. They delete all files
C. They include security patches
D. They make the screen bigger

14. Which utility should NOT be used on an SSD?

A. Antivirus
B. Defragmentation
C. Disk Cleanup
D. Backup

15. Which process creates a file system on a new disk and erases old data?

A. Renaming
B. Defragmentation
C. Formatting
D. Compression

16. Which file system is used on the Windows 11 system drive C:?

A. ext4
B. FAT32
C. exFAT
D. NTFS

17. A 64 GB pen drive must copy a 5 GB video to both Windows and macOS. Best file system?

A. NTFS
B. APFS
C. FAT32
D. exFAT

18. In C:\Users\Ravi\Music\baila.mp3, the extension is

A. Music
B. .mp3
C. C:
D. baila

19. Which extension belongs to a presentation?

A. .pptx
B. .txt
C. .zip
D. .xlsx

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20. A file named results.pdf.exe received on WhatsApp is most likely

A. a compressed folder
B. a program that may be a virus
C. a photo
D. a safe PDF document

21. To move a file to another folder you use

A. Cut and Paste
B. Shift+Del
C. Rename
D. Copy and Paste

22. Which statement about the Recycle Bin is correct?

A. Deleted files can be restored from it
B. It keeps files deleted from USB drives
C. Emptying it restores files
D. Shift+Del sends files to it

23. An icon with a small curved arrow on the Desktop is a

A. partition
B. driver
C. shortcut
D. root folder

24. The top level of drive D: is called the

A. extension
B. shortcut
C. sub-folder
D. root (D:\)

25. Which is the best way to keep school files safe if a laptop is stolen?

A. Save them in OneDrive or Google Drive
B. Rename them with .exe
C. Keep them all on the Desktop
D. Defragment the disk

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Paper II – Structured questions

1. Operating system basics. *(6 marks)*

(i) Define an operating system. *(2 marks)*
(ii) Draw a diagram to show where the OS sits in a computer system. *(2 marks)*
(iii) Name one open-source and one proprietary OS. *(2 marks)*

2. User interfaces. *(6 marks)*

(i) What do CLI and GUI stand for? *(2 marks)*
(ii) Give two advantages of a GUI and one advantage of a CLI. *(3 marks)*
(iii) Give an example of a modern voice interface. *(1 marks)*

3. Types of operating systems. Choose the OS type for each situation. *(6 marks)*

(i) A traffic-light controller that changes lights exactly on time. *(1 marks)*
(ii) A student playing music, chatting and writing an essay at once. *(1 marks)*
(iii) A library server used by many staff at the same time. *(1 marks)*
(iv) A worldwide bank network that looks like one system. *(1 marks)*
(v) Explain why a real time OS is needed for an air-bag. *(2 marks)*

4. Functions of the OS. *(8 marks)*

(i) List four resource-management functions of an OS. *(4 marks)*
(ii) What is a device driver? *(2 marks)*
(iii) Give two security features of a modern OS. *(2 marks)*

5. Disk utilities. *(6 marks)*

(i) What is partitioning? Give one benefit. *(2 marks)*
(ii) Why must you back up data before formatting? *(1 marks)*
(iii) Explain defragmentation and why it is used only on HDDs. *(3 marks)*

6. Files, folders and paths. Use the folder tree. *(8 marks)*

(i) Write the path of trip-2026.jpg. *(2 marks)*
(ii) State the file type of lesson5-notes.docx and os-types.pptx. *(2 marks)*
(iii) Give the file type for .xlsx, .mp4, .zip and .html. *(4 marks)*

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7. File management. Amali has many files on her Desktop. *(7 marks)*

(i) Describe how to create a folder called Science in Documents. *(2 marks)*
(ii) State the difference between copying and moving a file. *(2 marks)*
(iii) She deleted a file by mistake. How can she get it back? *(1 marks)*
(iv) Give two good file-naming rules. *(2 marks)*

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Exam tips

- Learn the OS definition word for word: system software + manages hardware/software + user interface.
- Remember the interface order: CLI → GUI → touch → voice.
- Five OS types: single user, multi user, multi tasking, real time, distributed (S-M-M-R-D).
- “Immediately”, “safety”, “control” in a question usually means real time.
- Functions: process, memory, file, device, security – plus the user interface.
- Formatting erases; partitioning divides; defragmentation joins pieces (HDD only).
- FAT32 cannot hold one file bigger than 4 GB – choose exFAT for big USB files.
- Know the extensions: .docx .xlsx .pptx .pdf .jpg .png .mp3 .mp4 .zip .exe .txt .html.
- Write paths with backslashes and end with the full file name and extension.
- Copy = two copies; move = one copy. Cut (Ctrl+X) + Paste (Ctrl+V) = move.
- USB deletes and Shift+Del skip the Recycle Bin.
- Read every MCQ option before choosing – two answers may look correct.

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Answers and explanations

Paper I

1. **B** – Android is a mobile OS; the others are applications.
2. **C** – The OS sits between applications and hardware.
3. **D** – macOS is owned by Apple; the others are open-source Linux.
4. **B** – Users typed commands in MS-DOS.
5. **A** – GUIs are easy to learn but need more memory.
6. **C** – Tap, swipe and pinch are touch gestures.
7. **A** – Instant response within a fixed time = real time.
8. **D** – Many users with separate accounts = multi user.
9. **B** – Shared work across networked computers = distributed.
10. **C** – Memory management allocates and frees RAM.
11. **D** – It shows running processes and their CPU/RAM use.
12. **A** – They protect the computer and data.
13. **C** – Updates fix security holes and bugs.
14. **B** – SSDs are optimised with TRIM, not defragmented.
15. **C** – Formatting prepares a disk with a file system.
16. **D** – Windows is installed on NTFS.
17. **D** – exFAT allows files over 4 GB and works on both.
18. **B** – The extension comes after the last dot.
19. **A** – .pptx = PowerPoint presentation.
20. **B** – The real extension is .exe – a program.
21. **A** – Cut + Paste moves; Copy + Paste copies.
22. **A** – Files deleted from the hard disk wait there to be restored.
23. **C** – The arrow shows it is a link (shortcut).
24. **D** – The root is the first level of a drive.
25. **A** – Cloud storage keeps a copy off the device.

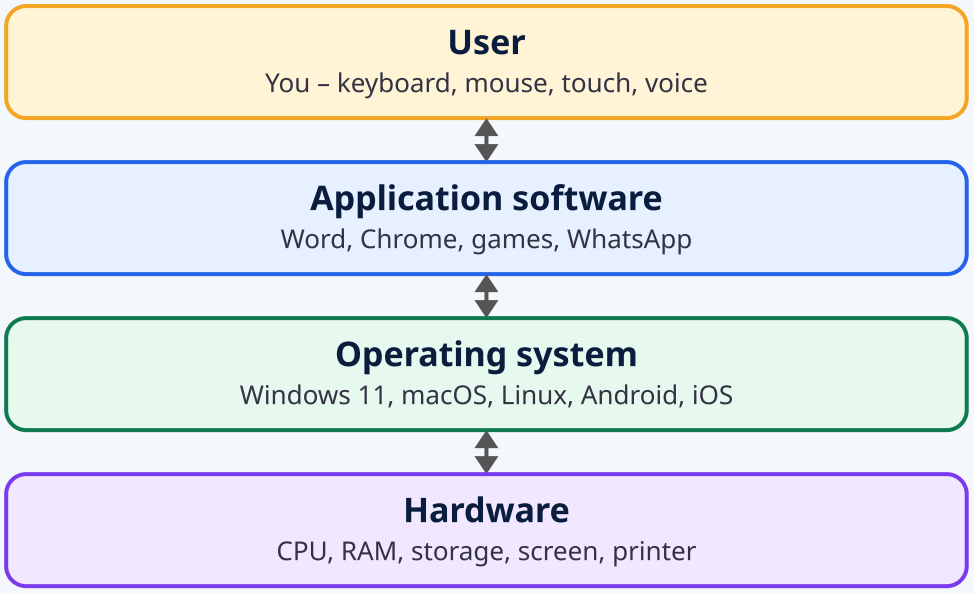
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Paper II – model answers and marking points

1. *(6 marks)*

(i) (2 marks)
System software (1) that manages hardware/software and provides a user interface (1).

(ii) (2 marks)
User → application software → OS → hardware (order 2).



Model answer

(iii) (2 marks)
Open source: Linux/Ubuntu (1); proprietary: Windows 11/macOS/iOS (1).

🎯 Examiner tip: “system software” is the key phrase in an OS definition – application software is wrong.

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2. *(6 marks)*

> **(i)** (2 marks)
> Command Line Interface (1); Graphical User Interface (1).

> **(ii)** (3 marks)
> GUI: easy to learn, no need to remember commands, visual (any 2). CLI: uses less memory / faster for experts (1).

> **(iii)** (1 marks)
> Siri / Google Assistant / Alexa / Copilot voice.

🎯 Examiner tip: write the full forms correctly – “Graphical User Interface”, not “Graphic Use Interface”.

3. *(6 marks)*

> **(i)** (1 marks)
> Real time OS.

> **(ii)** (1 marks)
> Multi tasking OS.

> **(iii)** (1 marks)
> Multi user OS.

> **(iv)** (1 marks)
> Distributed OS.

> **(v)** (2 marks)
> It must respond immediately within a fixed time (1); a delay could injure the driver (1).

🎯 Examiner tip: look for clue words – “immediately/instantly” → real time, “many accounts” → multi user, “many computers as one” → distributed.

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4. *(8 marks)*

(i) (4 marks)
Process/CPU, memory, file, device/I-O (security also accepted) – 1 each.

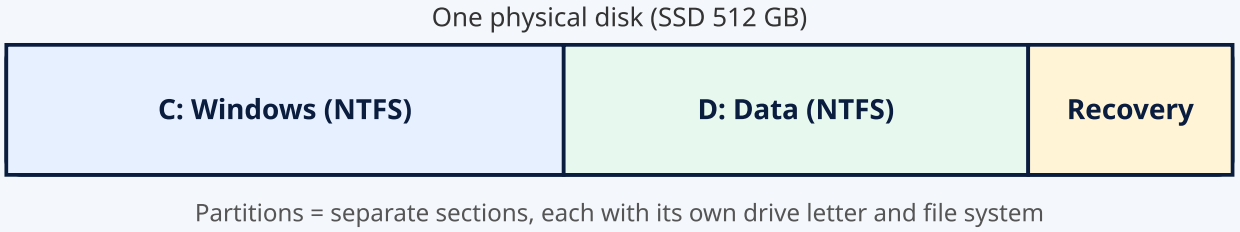
(ii) (2 marks)
A small program (1) that lets the OS communicate with/control a hardware device (1).

(iii) (2 marks)
Passwords/PIN/fingerprint, user accounts, firewall, built-in antivirus, security updates (any 2).

🎯 Examiner tip: name the function (e.g. “memory management”) and add one short example to earn full marks.

5. *(6 marks)*

(i) (2 marks)
Dividing a disk into separate sections with drive letters (1); keeps data safe on D: when Windows is reinstalled (1).



Partitions on one disk

(ii) (1 marks)
Formatting erases all data on the drive.

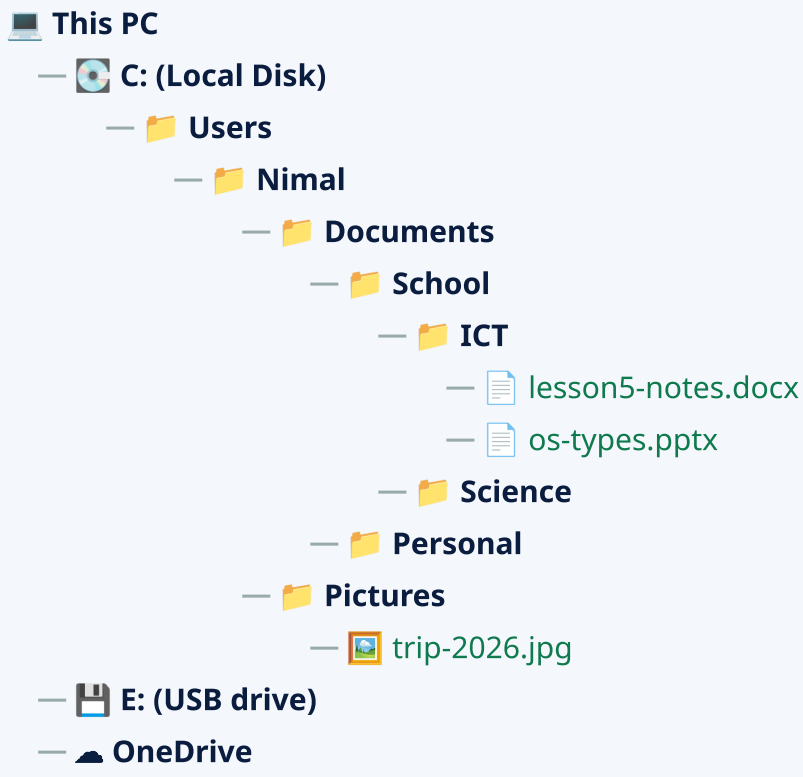
(iii) (3 marks)
Joins scattered file pieces so the HDD reads faster (2); SSDs have no moving parts, so defragmenting gives no speed and wears them – Windows uses TRIM (1).

🎯 Examiner tip: don’t mix up formatting (erases, creates file system) and defragmenting (reorganises, keeps data).

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6. *(8 marks)*

(i) (2 marks)
C:\Users\Nimal\Pictures\trip-2026.jpg



Path: C:\Users\Nimal\Documents\School\ICT\lesson5-notes.docx

Folder tree

(ii) (2 marks)
Word document (1); presentation (1).

(iii) (4 marks)
Spreadsheet, video, compressed folder, web page (1 each).

🎯 Examiner tip: in Windows paths use the backslash (\) and include the extension of the file at the end.

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7. *(7 marks)*

> **(i)** (2 marks)
> Open Documents → right-click → New → Folder (1) → type Science → Enter (1).

> **(ii)** (2 marks)
> Copy: original stays, two copies (1). Move: file goes to new place, one copy (1).

> **(iii)** (1 marks)
> Open the Recycle Bin → Restore.

> **(iv)** (2 marks)
> Clear meaningful names; date as YYYY-MM-DD; no \ / : * ? " < > |; keep the extension (any 2).

> 🎯 Examiner tip: for “difference” questions, write one point for each side (copy … / move …).

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