

# Hardware and software

Hardware and software are equally important in the majority of computer systems. In order to create effective systems, users have many decisions to make regarding elements, from the microprocessor to the operating system, and from specifying the makeup of a bespoke solution to battling with applications generators to satisfy a special purpose. Internal and external components of these systems are usually what define their purpose.

## Exam themes

- The types and capabilities of hardware and software
- The effect that hardware and software design has on the user
- The internal components of the microprocessor
- Input and output devices and their application
- Purposes of operating systems
- Adequate and appropriate backup and security
- The role of communications in ICT and society
- Language – groupings and translation methods
- Health and safety issues regarding hardware

## Topic checklist

○ AS ● A2

	OCR	EDEXCEL	AQA
Hardware – types and capabilities	○	○	○
Internal components	○	○	
Input and output devices	○	○	○
Software – types and capabilities	○	○	○
Operating systems	○	○	○
General and special purpose systems	○	○●	○
Backup and security		○	○
Role of communications	○●	○	○
Effect of hardware and software on human–computer interface	○		○
Language group hierarchies and translation methods	○	○	○