

COMPUTER SCIENCE · CHAPTER 1

Computer System

A 1-page guide for parents · 90-second read.

EXPECTED MARKS**10 marks****TIME TO MASTER****Strong hrs****HELPLINE****70330 05444****WHAT THIS CHAPTER IS, IN PLAIN ENGLISH**

This is the very first chapter of your child's Class 11 Computer Science course. Before any coding begins, the student learns HOW a computer is built and organised — its main parts (the processor or 'brain', the memory, input and output devices), the difference between hardware (the parts you can touch) and software (the programs), and how the machine starts up and stores information. It is mostly conceptual and definition-based; there is no programming yet. A clear understanding here makes the rest of the course — especially programming and how programs actually run on the machine — much easier to follow.

5 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD

- What are the three parts inside the CPU, and what does each one do?
- What is the difference between RAM and ROM — and which one loses its data when the computer is switched off?
- Why is a hard disk called 'storage' but RAM called 'memory' — aren't they the same?
- Can you name two examples of system software and two of application software?
- What happens, step by step, from the moment you press the power button until the desktop appears?

WEAK-SPOT INDICATORS

- If your child mixes up RAM and ROM (which is volatile, which holds the boot program), the foundation needs revision.
- If your child calls the whole cabinet/tower 'the CPU', the functional-units concept is unclear.
- If your child cannot tell 'memory' (RAM) from 'storage' (hard disk/SSD), expect lost marks on the differentiate questions.

WHEN TO WORRY — AND WHAT TO DO

If, after one read-through, your child cannot draw the simple four-box diagram (input, CPU, memory, output) and label the parts of the CPU, set aside an hour for focused revision. This chapter is heavy on precise terminology — vague answers lose marks even when the idea is roughly right.

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