

INFORMATICS PRACTICES · CHAPTER 1

Introduction to Computer System

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

EXPECTED MARKS

6 marks

TIME TO MASTER

**Comfortable-with-
computers hrs**

HELPLINE

70330 05444

WHAT THIS CHAPTER IS, IN PLAIN ENGLISH

This is the very first chapter of Class 11 Informatics Practices. It explains what a computer actually IS on the inside — the brain (CPU), the temporary memory (RAM), the permanent storage (hard disk), and how raw DATA is turned into useful INFORMATION. Your child also learns the difference between the software that RUNS the machine (the operating system, like Windows) and the software that does a JOB for the user (like Word or a browser), and what happens in those few seconds when a computer is switched on (the boot process). It is foundational vocabulary the whole rest of the course depends on.

5 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD

- What is the difference between data and information? Give me an example.
- What are the two main parts inside the CPU, and what does each one do?
- What is the difference between RAM and ROM?
- Is Microsoft Windows system software or application software? Why?
- What happens when you press the power button — what is 'booting'?

WEAK-SPOT INDICATORS

- If your child says data and information mean the same thing, the core idea of the chapter is missing.
- If they cannot say which memory is erased when power is cut (RAM), the memory section needs another pass.
- If they call Windows an application, the system-vs-application distinction has not landed.

WHEN TO WORRY — AND WHAT TO DO

If, after one attempt at each of the four key distinctions (data/information, RAM/ROM, primary/secondary, system/application), your child gets fewer than three right, sit with them for one 45-minute session using the cheat sheet's diagrams. This chapter is memory-and-vocabulary heavy, not calculation-heavy — it rewards a short, focused revision.

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