

UNIT 1.2 Micro Test

1) Compare the characteristics between RAM and ROM [2]

Both RAM and ROM are forms of primary memory. RAM is volatile, meaning it will lose all data it is holding if it loses power whereas ROM is non-volatile and will retain data when power is absent.

2) Describe the purpose of RAM [2]

To hold all currently running programs and routines (everything currently on screen) eg Operating system

3) Describe the purpose of ROM [2]

Store system critical software such as startup(boot) sequences eg BIOS

4) Explain, using an example, what the purpose of Virtual memory is [3]

If RAM gets full you could get a crash. Virtual memory is a reserved area of the hard drive for the OS to place inactive processes from RAM to free up memory for active processes. This will lead to a performance hit due to the hard drive being slower than RAM.

5) Describe using an example what Flash memory is [3]

Solid state memory, no moving parts. Data is stored electrically in microchips and is non-volatile. An example would be solid state hard drives or a USB pen.