Task A

1. Four common smart devices used in the household by individuals are: mobile phones, tablet devices, smart TV’s and games consoles. Earlier models were not classified as smart, they all had a core function.

Identify the core function for each smart device listed above.

1. What is the core function of a mobile phone?

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| --- |
| To allow people to make voice calls on the move aswell as sending short text messages using SMS. |

1. What is the core function of a tablet device?

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| --- |
| To allow people to access functions they normally would on a desktop PC or laptop but have the ability to use it on the go. |

1. What is the core function of a TV?

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| To access audio-visual products such as TV shows, films and radio. |

1. What is the core function of a games console?

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| To play video games. |

1. The devices have now become multi-functional which means they can perform functions that were, or are still, done by other devices.

Complete the table below to describe each function and tick whether these functions are present on a mobile phone, tablet device, smart TV or games console. (You can tick more than one if it applies)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Function** | **Description** | **Mobile phone** | **Tablet device** | **Smart TV** | **Games console** |
| Camera/video camera. | Taking still images, capture video and make video calls. | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| Internet browsing | Stream music and video, access websites. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| GPS receiver | Pinpoint position on a map, get local information such as the weather and use it as a navigational device. | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| Data storage | Store photos, music, videos, apps and games. Use of removable storage such as USB flash drives and SD cards. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Productivity | Downloading apps for learning, financial management, entertainment and travel apps boost productivity and save time. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Entertainment | Play music, video and games. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

1. List the pros and cons to using each smart device discussed above by using the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Device** | **Pros** | **Cons** |
| Mobile phone | * Convenience – access content on the go. * Connection – access to the internet is possible through Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and Mobile communications such as 3G/4G/5G | * As time goes on, battery life diminishes. * Can be distraction – people also tempted to use it while driving. |
| Tablet device | * Portable and easy to use on the go. * Apps that allow users to perform tasks like they would on laptops or desktop PC’s. | * Battery life could diminish, will need charging. * Limitations of connection – no mobile communications available. Needs to be through Wi-Fi. |
| Smart TV | * Stream-on-demand and live TV through apps * Put your TV anywhere in your house * Transfer across multiple devices. * Additional Features | * Quality of streaming depends on Wi-Fi connection * Security and Privacy Issues. * Smart TVs can crash just like a computer. * Expensive |
| Games console | * Many games can be very engaging, either playing against your mates on the sofa or online with other people * Games can be intellectual where you use clever strategy to beat other people. * Games can be educational such as simulations of flight or real-life situations * Improved eye-hand co-ordination for playing those fast action games * Introduction of new motion sensing games is encouraging people to exercise while gaming. * Improved reaction times and quick thinking as a result of playing challenging games. | * Many other games are aimed for single player and so could be criticised for isolating you from family and friends for many hours * They can take an awful lot of hours, that time could be spent doing something more productive or sociable * Constant use of thumbs, wrist and eyes can lead to problems such as eye strain, RSI and other physical problems. * Games do not need much physical activity and so could be criticised for making you unfit. * The hardware and software together are quite expensive, which can be a challenge when balancing what you want to spend your money on. |