

Definitions and Concepts for AQA Computer Science GCSE

Topic 8: Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy

Ethical Issues: The moral considerations and questions of what is right or wrong concerning the development, use, and consequences of digital technology on individuals and society.

Legal Issues: The laws, regulations, and legal frameworks that govern the use, development, and consequences of digital technology, including data protection, copyright, and cybercrime laws.

Environmental Issues: The effects that digital technology has on the natural environment, including energy consumption, resource depletion, and electronic waste (e-waste).

E-waste (Electronic Waste): Discarded electronic devices or components, such as old computers, phones, and batteries.

Cultural Issues: How different societies view and use technology, based on their values, traditions or beliefs.

Data Privacy: The right of individuals to control how their personal information is collected, stored, used, and shared and the measures taken to protect this information from unauthorised access.

Cyber Security (Impacts): The societal implications arising from cyber security threats (e.g., data breaches, ransomware attacks) and the measures taken to counter them.

Mobile Technologies (Impacts): The ethical, legal, and environmental implications of devices like smartphones and tablets, including issues of constant connectivity, privacy, and addiction.

Wireless Networking (Impacts): The societal implications of wireless communication technologies (e.g., Wi-Fi, 5G), including health concerns, signal interference, and security vulnerabilities.

Cloud Storage (Impacts): The ethical, legal, and environmental considerations related to storing data on remote servers, including data ownership, security, and the energy consumption of data centers.

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Hacking (Unauthorised Access): The act of gaining unauthorised access to a computer system or network, and the legal and ethical ramifications of such actions.

Wearable Technologies (Impacts): The societal implications of electronic devices worn on the body (e.g., smartwatches, fitness trackers), including data collection, privacy, and health monitoring.

Computer Based Implants (Impacts): The ethical and legal considerations of devices implanted into the human body that interact with computer systems (e.g., pacemakers, neural implants).

Autonomous Vehicles (Impacts): The ethical, legal, and societal implications of self-driving cars, including issues of safety, liability, job displacement, and decision-making in accidents.

