

Topic 5: System Software

Keyword sheet - Cambridge AS & A Level Computer Science 9618. Tick each term once you can define it from memory.

Keyword	Definition	Know it?
Operating system	System software that manages hardware resources and provides services for application software and the user.	
OS management tasks	Processor, memory, file, security and hardware (I/O) management, plus providing a user interface.	
Utility software	Programs that perform housekeeping tasks, e.g. disk formatter, defragmenter, virus checker, backup.	
Library program / DLL	Collection of reusable routines / library loaded at run-time and shared by several programs.	
Device driver	Translates generic OS commands into instructions specific to a particular device.	
GUI / CLI	Graphical interface using windows, icons, menus and pointers / interface where commands are typed.	
Source / object code	Program written by the programmer / machine code output by a translator.	
Compiler	Translates the entire source program into object code before execution.	
Interpreter	Translates and executes one statement at a time.	
Assembler	Translates assembly language into machine code.	
IDE features	Code editor, syntax highlighting, auto-completion, translator, debugger, breakpoints, single-stepping, variable watch.	
Syntax / logic / run-time error	Rule violation preventing translation / incorrect result from valid code / error occurring during execution.	