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Digital society
Higher level
Paper 3 – source booklet

7 November 2024

Zone A morning | **Zone B** morning | **Zone C** morning

1 hour 15 minutes

Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this booklet until instructed to do so.
- This booklet contains the sources required for digital society higher level paper 3.

Source A Greenview School’s e-waste challenge

Greenview School is a large government-funded school with 3000 students aged 11–18. It is situated just outside the capital city of a large more economically developed country (MEDC).

Susan Jones, the IT director of Greenview School, is responsible for purchasing computers for staff and students (see **Figure 1**).


Figure 1: Computers purchased for staff and students at Greenview School

Users	Type of device	Replacement time	Uses
Teachers	Laptop	3 years	Teaching and administrative tasks
Students	3 IT Rooms (each with 25 Desktop Computers)	5 years	Specialist software for music, design technology, and art
Administration Staff	Desktop Computers	5 years	Administration tasks, financial tasks, student and staff data

Susan has to decide what to do with the digital devices owned by the school once they become obsolete. She is considering an environmentally sustainable strategy for the replacement of the school’s hardware.




Source B Anna considers the advantages and disadvantages of a circular economy

Anna, the vice president of a technical research company, posted on social media about the advantages and disadvantages of a circular economy.



Anna

The biggest challenge with reconditioning personal computers is that you need to do it in a safe way. It’s not as simple as looking for a phone on a second-hand market website. To be serious about a circular economy, businesses need to become involved in reconditioning programmes. Hardware manufacturers should be supporting the circular economy by taking back obsolete devices. However, there needs to be a level of quality control throughout this process.

08:50 AM - 25 May 2023

Source C Is illegal trade in e-waste on the rise?

12 MAY 2015 | PRESS RELEASE | ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW

Illegally Traded and Dumped E-Waste Worth up to USD 19 billion Annually Poses Risks to Health and Deprives Countries of Resources, Says UNEP

Geneva, 12 May 2015 – Up to 90% of the world’s electronic waste, worth nearly USD 19 billion, is illegally traded or dumped each year, according to a report released today by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Source D *Computers You Can Trust*: website and donation form

The screenshot shows the 'Computers You Can Trust' website. The header includes a laptop icon, the site name, and navigation links: Home, About us, News, Contact us, and a 'Donate computers' button. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features a 'Business donation form' with four input fields: 'Business name:', 'Type of equipment:', 'Quantity:', and 'Contact details:'. The right column contains two quotes: '“We wipe all donated equipment securely and to government standards before shipping out.”' and '“Your donation will offset 168 tonnes of CO₂ emissions, equivalent to planting 420 trees.”'. Below the quotes are two buttons: 'Donate computers – businesses' and 'Donate computers – individuals'. A footer section at the bottom states: 'Since 2005, Computers You Can Trust has provided computers for more than 50 000 students across Africa. Our vision is to reduce the digital divide and transform learning for all.'

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References:

Source C United Nations Environment Programme (2015). Illegally Traded and Dumped E-Waste Worth up to \$19 Billion Annually Poses Risks to Health, Deprives Countries of Resources, Says UNEP. Retrieved on 23 May 2023 from <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/illegally-traded-and-dumped-e-waste-worth-19-billion-annually-poses>.

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