Name: Class:

Task 1

1. Research on the Internet new computers from a manufacturer of your choice.

(a) What is the typical amount of RAM and hard drive size that they are including in their computers as standard?

(b) The amount of storage in hard drives is usually far higher than the amount of RAM on the computer.

Why doesn’t the CPU access programs and other data from the hard drive directly?

(c) RAM is volatile. Explain what this means.

Task 2

1. Complete the table below with as much detail as possible to show that you understand the main differences between RAM and ROM.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Question | RAM | ROM |
| What does it stand for? |  |  |
| What is often stored in it? |  |  |
| What happens to its contents when you turn the power off? |  |  |
| Can you read from and write data to it? |  |  |

2. (a) Explain why increasing the amount of RAM will improve the performance of a PC.

(b) When a computer systems RAM becomes full it can use virtual memory.

Explain what happens if the computer does not have any virtual memory.

(c) Describe how virtual memory works in a computer system.