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A+ Core Technologies
220-221-301

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We hope that you find this PDF version of the A+ Core Technologies test prep to be a valuable study aid. You can print this PDF or use it on your computer. As you review the answers and explanations for the questions, you will see that most contain one or more web links for more information on that topic. When you are using this PDF in Acrobat Reader, these links are clickable, providing you with the easiest way to access the wealth of free study information available on the web.

Depending on your experience level, you may wish to prioritize your study efforts differently between the two sets of questions for Core Technologies. The set of questions, titled 220-301, contain some questions that are marked *2003*, this indicates that the exam objective that the question targets is one of the new CompTIA 2003 exam objectives. The other set of questions, titled 220-221-301 contains questions that target the older A+ exam objectives, many of which are still included on the 2003 exam.

If you have been working with computers and/or studying this type of material for a while, you may find the older topics familiar and you can just concentrate on the new objectives. If you are new to computers and A+ material, you will need to study all the topics and you will find that together the two sets of questions provide very comprehensive coverage for the exam. Note about Adobe Reader:

This PDF is fully Cross-Linked by #. Clicking on the # Will take you to the opposing Q or A. In addition: Adobe is fussy. See the examples below.

The image shows a screenshot of the Adobe Reader interface. On the left, there is a table of contents with the following structure:

- QUESTIONS
 - Domain 1
 - Domain 2
 - Domain 3
 - Domain 4
- SOLUTIONS
 - Domain 1
 - Domain 2
- SOLUTIONS
 - Domain 1
 - Domain 2
 - Domain 3
 - Domain 4

Two callout boxes are overlaid on the screenshot, each with a pointer to a specific element in the table of contents:

- The first callout box, labeled 'No. The line does not work. Go get the Number. Hand is not pointing!', has a pointer to the '#' symbol next to 'Domain 1' in the 'SOLUTIONS' section under 'Domain 1'.
- The second callout box, labeled 'YES! Now you can jump between Question and Answer! Index finder is pointing!', has a pointer to the '#' symbol next to 'Domain 1' in the 'SOLUTIONS' section under 'Domain 1'.

Both callout boxes include the text: 'This study aid makes extensive use of calling out the CompTIA N10-002 objective sub-points found by using the hint button.'

A+ Core Technologies 220-221-301

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QUESTIONS - 220-301

15. Identify the picture from the choices below:

2003



-
- a) DIMM
 - b) ECC-DIMM
 - c) SO-DIMM
 - d) SIMM

*Hint: 4.2 Identify the types of RAM, form factors, and operational characteristics.
Determine banking and speed requirements under different scenarios.*

24. Identify the picture from the choices below:

2003



-
- a) Compact Flash
 - b) Smart Media
 - c) Micro Drive
 - d) Micro DIMM

Hint: 4.2 Identify the types of RAM, 1 factors, and operational characteristics.

46. *2003* Generally speaking, a Pentium M CPU operates in what voltage ranges?

- a) 3.3V in maximum performance mode, and 2.5V in battery optimised/optimized mode
- b) 1.18V to 1.48V in maximum performance mode, and .84 to .96V in battery optimised/optimized mode
- c) 1.75V in all cases
- d) 2.0V in all cases

Hint: 4.1 Distinguish between the popular CPU chips in terms of their basic characteristics.

114. *2003* The disadvantages of networking in a peer to peer mode is?

- a) No centralised/centralized administration
- b) Must be purchased separately
- c) Is meant for small networks only
- d) All choices are correct

Hint: 6.2 Identify basic networking concepts including how a network works.

128. The ECP printer setting is faster than EPP (True/False)

- a) True
- b) False

Hint: 5.1 Identify printer technologies, interfaces, and options/upgrades.

130. When an IBM PS/2 Model 80 is booting, you see a 1701 error on the screen. This means?

- a) Keyboard error
- b) Fixed disk error
- c) Floppy drive or Controller error
- d) Memory error

Hint: 2.1 Recognize common problems associated with each module and their symptoms, and identify steps to isolate and troubleshoot the problems. Given a problem situation, interpret the symptoms and infer the most likely cause.

134. When repairing a notebook computer you discover the system board is dead. What is the MOST critical precaution to take?

- a) Get an RMA number to return the dead system board.
- b) Shop solely on price.
- c) Be sure to order a system board from the same manufacture
- d) Order an exact replacement for the make/model.

Hint: 2.1 Recognize common problems associated with each module and their symptoms, and identify steps to isolate and troubleshoot the problems. Given a problem situation, interpret the symptoms and infer the most likely cause.

QUESTIONS - 220-221-301

- 6.** You are configuring a new network interface card for installation. Which of the following would be a valid I/O address you can assign to it?
- a) FFF
 - b) 2F8
 - c) 378
 - d) No Answer is Correct

Hint: 6.2 Identify basic networking concepts including how a network works.

- 38.** Which precautions must you take when installing a video card with on-board memory?
- a) Disconnect the monitor
 - b) Un plug the PC.
 - c) Flash the BIOS.
 - d) Use an ESD strap

Hint: 3.1 Identify the various types of preventive maintenance measures, products and procedures and when and how to use them.

- 72.** You are going to measure an unknown voltage. How should you prevent damage to the multi-meter?
- a) Start with the meter on the lowest voltage setting
 - b) Start with the meter on the highest voltage setting
 - c) Start with the meter on the average voltage setting
 - d) Start with the meter on the second voltage setting

Hint: 3.1 Identify the various types of preventive maintenance measures, products and procedures and when and how to use them.

136. Which CPU is intended to operate at a 66MHZ motherboard speed?

- a) Intel 80486
- b) Pentium 75
- c) Pentium II 350
- d) Pentium II 300

Hint: 4.1 Distinguish between the popular CPU chips in terms of their basic characteristics.

175. What should be used to connect two computers in an Ethernet peer-to-peer network using RJ-45 connectors and Cat5 Cable?

- a) Crossover cable
- b) Serial cable
- c) Modem
- d) 1294 cable

Hint: 6.2 Identify basic networking concepts including how a network works.

SOLUTIONS – 220-301

15. C

For additional information see:

<http://www.kingston.com/jump/viewsonic/sodimm.asp>

24. B

For additional information see: <http://www.usb-port.com/smedia.html>

46. B

For additional information see:

A history of the micro processor

http://www.intel.com/intel/intelis/museum/exhibits/hist_micro/index.htm

Processor hall of fame

http://www.intel.com/intel/intelis/museum/exhibits/hist_micro/hof/hof_main.htm

Microprocessor quick reference guide

<http://www.intel.com/pressroom/kits/quickreffam.htm>

Excellent tables available for Intel and AMD

<http://www.qdi.nl/support/comp03.htm>

Note: L1 cache has been into the microprocessor since the 80486. L2 cache is now found the within the CPU housing.

Cache memory

Cache memory helps a CPU gets its job done faster by storing needed data closer - in both time and distance - to where it's needed. (good article)

<http://www.computerworld.com/hardwaretopics/storage/story/0,10801,44333,00.html>

L1 Cache

http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/L/L1_cache.html

L2 Cache

http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/L/L2_cache.html

114. A and C

For additional information see:

http://www.itcla.com/faq_glossary.html

http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/sDefinition/0,,sid7_gci212769,00.html

http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/p/peer_to_peer_architecture.html

128. A

For additional information see:

EPP is bi-directional and supports speeds of 500KB to 2MB per second.

“ECP operates at approximately 2.0MB per second over a 15 foot cable.If a shorter cable is used than the bandwidth will increase.” -- Extended Capabilities Port: Specifications Revision 1.06 July 14, 1993 Microsoft Corporation

http://www.fapo.com/files/ecp_req.pdf

<http://www.ctips.com/epp.html>

<http://www.acerphil.com.ph/acercare/faq.html>

<http://www.pcworld.com/howto/article/0,aid,16306,00.asp>

130. B

For additional information see:

One of the 3 popular numeric error codes.

301 = keyboard error

601 = diskette (floppy) error

17xx = hard disk (fixed disk) error.

<http://www.impactcomputers.com/numercodquid.html>

<http://inf33-www.informatik.unibw-muenchen.de/infothek/computer/tutorial/eprmhtml/eprm/40.htm>

134. C

For additional information see:

Notebook and laptop parts are created to design needs (weight, performance, cost etc.). This class of computers is famous for not being interchangeable on even something as simple as batteries.

<http://www.sk-networks.com/laptop-notebook.html>

SOLUTIONS – 220-221-301

6. D

For additional information see:

All these addresses should be used by other purposes. Nowadays the network cards are all PnP, meaning an IRQ will be assigned to the system automatically. In other words Plug and Play will select the best available address.

For older ISA cards, 300h, 320h, and 340h we're common choices.

<http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/I/IRQ.html>

http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/P/plug_and_play.html

http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/I/ISA_bus.html

<http://www.pcguide.com/ref/mbsys/buses/types/olderISA-c.html>

38. B and D

For additional information see:

A field trick with the old AT power supply is to turn the power off and keep a hand on the power supply, with the pc plugged into a grounded outlet.

This does NOT work with ATX. ATX Always has some power to support Wake on LAN, Wake on Modem, etc. ATX must be completely de-powered and a ESD strap used.

<http://www.pcguide.com/care/care/gen/powerESD-c.html>

<http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/E/ESD.html>

72. B

For additional information see:

You do this just in case the voltage is on the high side. High voltage can cause damage to the multimeter if the multimeter hasn't prepared for it. The purpose of the multimeter is to measure voltage, resistance and current (AC/DC) using digital display mode. The multimeter can also be used to check the direction of a diode among other things.

<http://www.geocities.com/vwresource/VOM>

<http://www.colomar.com/Shavano/vom.html>

<http://www.anatekcorp.com/gdmmvom.htm>

136. B

For additional information see:

The Pentium 75 ran with a bus speed of 66 MHz. 80486 processors ran from 33 MHz to 100 MHz. The other processors had varied bus speeds depending on how the manufacturer set them.

http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/c/clock_speed.htm

175. A

For additional information see:

<http://www.wtvi.com/teks/exchange/crossovercable.html>

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