

First Year

English Exam № 1 (Devoir Surveillé N°1)

November 2016

Name :

Group :

The Text :

An electronic calculator is a small, portable electronic device used to perform both basic arithmetic operations and complex mathematical operations. The first solid state electronic calculator was created in the 1960s, building on the extensive history of tools such as the abacus (developed around 2000 BC), and the mechanical calculator (developed in the 17th century AD). It was developed in parallel with the analog computers of the day.

The pocket sized devices became available in the 1970s, especially after the first microprocessor developed by Intel for the Japanese calculator company Basicom (Which was Intel's first microprocessor). They later became commonly used within the Oil and Gas industry.

Modern electronic calculators vary: from cheap, give-away, credit-card-sized models to sturdy desktop models with built-in printers. They became popular in the mid-1970s (as integrated circuits made their size and cost small). By the end of that decade, calculator prices had reduced to a point where a basic calculator was affordable to most and they became common in schools.

Computer operating systems as far back as early Unix have included interactive calculator programs such as dc and hoc, and calculator functions are included in almost all PDA-type devices (save a few dedicated address book and dictionary devices). In addition to general purpose calculators, there are those designed for specific markets; for example, there are scientific calculators which include trigonometric and statistical calculations. Some calculators even have the ability to do computer algebra. Graphing calculators can be used to graph functions defined on the real line, or higher-dimensional Euclidean space. Currently, basic calculators are inexpensive, but the scientific and graphing models tend to be higher priced. In 1986, calculators still represented an estimated 41% of the world's general-purpose hardware capacity to compute information. This diminished to less than 0.05% by 2007.

Section One: Reading comprehension (8points)

Activity one: Are these statements True/False according to the text? (02pts)

- 1- The calculator is a modern device only.
- 2- Calculators have always been expensive.
- 3- Calculator programmes are designed for multiple purposes.
- 4- More complex calculators are not cheap.

Activity two: Answer the following questions from the text: (03pts)

- 1- Why did calculators become affordable?

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2- How do calculators help us in markets?

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3- How can calculators replace computers?

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Activity three: Reorder the following sentences according to the text: (2points)

- a- More complex mathematical operations can be done by calculators.
- b- Calculators have become better equipped.
- c- Price difference depends on the calculator design.
- d- More and more people are using calculators.

Activity four: a- Find in the text the synonyms of the following words: (0.5pt)

- 1- reduced=.....
- 2- unknown=

b- Find in the text opposites of the following words: (0.5pt)

- 1- traditional=.....
- 2- existing=.....

Section Two: Grammar

Activity One: Put the verbs in the correct tense. Use the Simple Present or the Present Continuous (07pts)

- 1- This product (contain)no added chemicals of any kind.
- 2- I' m sorry, but I (not understand)the equation.
- 3- At birth a baby elephant (weigh)about 90 kg.
- 4- In this country more than a million people (live)in poverty.
- 5- This cheese (smell)bad!
- 6- (Youdo)anything at the moment? I need some help with the test tubes.
- 7- In career terms, having a good degree (appear)to make little difference.
- 8- I (take).....antibiotics for an ear infection.
- 9- Scientists (begin).....to understand more about how the brain works.
- 10- I _____ (work) for a construction company. We _____(build) roads, dams, bridges and things like that. At the moment my company _____ (produce) a plan for a new motorway. I usually _____(work) in the roads department, but this month I _____(work) in the department that builds bridges.

Section Three: Writing (05pts)

Choose one topic

- Write a paragraph describing a modern device.