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| **Theory Notes Task: BIOS** |

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| 1. What is the purpose of BIOS?  Booting up the computer and getting everything loaded into memory when a computer first turns on and loading the operating system into memory too |

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| 2. Where is the BIOS stored?  The BIOS is stored in ROM on the motherboard |

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| 3. Go through the steps of what happens from when the machine is switched on until POST  The power unit is turned on  If the power unit is sending a normal signal then a reset signal will be sent to the CPU  This is a hardcoded instruction in the CPU and it jumps to the starting address in the BIOS  Booting is underway when the CPU starts processing the start-up program |

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| 4. List three things which happen during the POST check  Checks to see that there is keyboard present  Checks to see that there is a monitor  Checks to see that the BIOS is not corrupted |

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| 5. What is likely to happen if a problem is found during the POST check?  A series of beeps will be sounded from the motherboard  These will mean something in the motherboard’s beep code manual |

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| 6. What happens once the POST check has been successfully completed?  The video card is started up so the monitor can display something and the peripherals are told to start up too.  Then it will look for a bootable drive, it will search for flash devices and other portables first before the internal hard drives |

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| 7. Explain the purpose of the boot sector in relation to BIOS  The boot sector is usually the first region of storage in a drive and it holds instructions that tell the CPU how to start it up (contains the MBR which points to the primary partition of a drive |

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| 8. What is the boot loader?  The boot loader is the code in the boot sector of the primary partition which loads in the rest of the operating system |