The manager of a technology company A claims that his employees earn more per year than the employees at technology company B. The amounts earned per year, in hundreds of dollars, by a random sample of 12 employees from company A and an independent random sample of 12 employees from company B are shown below.

| Company A | 461 | 482 | 374 | 512 | 415 | 452 | 502 | 427 | 398 | 545 | 612 | 359 |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Company B | 454 | 506 | 491 | 384 | 361 | 443 | 401 | 472 | 414 | 342 | 355 | 437 |

- (a) Carry out a Wilcoxon rank-sum test at the 5% significance level to test whether the manager's claim is supported by the data. [9]
- **(b)** Explain whether a paired sample *t*-test would be appropriate to test the manager's claim if earnings are normally distributed. [1]