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 Company B 

- (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]