


## STUDYING IT

1. Alec is doing an HND (Higher National Diploma) in Civil Engineering. Listen to Alec being interviewed.

a) Fill in the gaps 1-8 in his timetable.



	09.00–11.00	11.15–12.15	13.15–14.15	14.30–16.30
Mon	_____ <sup>1</sup>	Maths	_____ <sup>2</sup>	Civil engineering
	3.1	4.5	G2	Materials Labs 4.4
	H.Lomax	B.Davis	Wei Ming	D.Cowan
Tue	<b>SELF-STUDY</b>			
Wed	Calculus	_____ <sup>3</sup>	_____ <sup>4</sup>	<b>FREE</b>
	4.2	4.5	4.5	
	B.Davis	J.Bell	J.Bell	
Thur	<b>SELF-STUDY</b>			
Fri	_____ <sup>5</sup>	_____ <sup>6</sup>	_____ <sup>7</sup>	_____ <sup>8</sup>
	G4	G4	G4	G4
	C.Doyle	D.Cowan	D.Cowan	D.Cowan

b) Answer the following questions.

- Which subject does Alec like most? And why?
- What do students do on Tuesdays and Thursdays?
- What does he do in the lab?
- What is his project work about?
- What will he have to talk to the class about?
- Which is his most difficult subject?
- What type of assessment do they have in this course?

2. Ask the necessary questions to obtain the 10 bits of information in *italics* in the text below, where Pauline describes her 1<sup>st</sup> semester.

In her first term Pauline studied *six subjects* <sup>1</sup>. She had classes on *four days* <sup>2</sup> each week. On Monday morning *she had IT and Information Systems* <sup>3</sup>. *Tuesday* <sup>4</sup> was a free day for home study. On Wednesday she had *Systems Analysis in Room 324* <sup>5</sup>. She studied *Computer Architecture* <sup>6</sup> on Thursdays. *Programming* <sup>7</sup> happened on Friday mornings. Communication took place *once a week* <sup>8</sup> on Friday afternoons. She liked *Mr Blunt's classes* <sup>9</sup> most. She had a 15-minute coffee break each day and a lunch break *from 12.00 to 1.00* <sup>10</sup>.

3. Now, answer these questions about your studies:

- What are you studying?
- Where are you studying?
- How long is your course?
- What qualifications do you get when you complete the course?
- What are its 3 main subjects?
- Which subject do you find most difficult? Why?
- Which subject do you enjoy most? Why?
- How many classes do you have each week?
- When do your classes normally start and finish?
- Do you have any self-study time?
- What do you hope to do when you finish your course?

**4. Use your answers above to complete the gaps in this description. Then read it to the class!**

I'm studying \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_. It's a \_\_\_\_\_ course. When I complete the course, I will get a \_\_\_\_\_. The main subjects are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. The subject I find the most difficult is \_\_\_\_\_, because \_\_\_\_\_. The subject I enjoy most is \_\_\_\_\_, because \_\_\_\_\_. I have \_\_\_\_\_ classes each week. Classes normally start at \_\_\_\_\_ and finish at \_\_\_\_\_. I \_\_\_\_\_. When I finish my course, I hope to \_\_\_\_\_.

**CAREER PROSPECTS**

**1. Listen to an IT professional talking about his 6 top reasons for choosing a career in IT and complete the sentences.**

- Because you \_\_\_\_\_ and feel \_\_\_\_\_ not just because it \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Because it is \_\_\_\_\_ career. It makes things \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Or you can just take \_\_\_\_\_. It's up to you!
- There is \_\_\_\_\_, such as \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_. It's amazing the way you can \_\_\_\_\_. So many jobs at your \_\_\_\_\_...
- There's a \_\_\_\_\_ for IT professionals. And the pay does \_\_\_\_\_ if you meet these 6 top reasons.
- Because you love \_\_\_\_\_. It \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ very quickly. You'll always have to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- Because you love \_\_\_\_\_. That's the greatest joy \_\_\_\_\_. IT will then be a great \_\_\_\_\_. Medicine was not a good choice for me because \_\_\_\_\_. It and helping people \_\_\_\_\_ for me.

**2. Conversely, why shouldn't someone work in IT? Listen to the same speaker and fill in the gaps.**

- If you can't deal with people who \_\_\_\_\_ about technology, and you're going to be \_\_\_\_\_ to them. Don't work in IT if you're going to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- If you're not \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; technology \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ very often and quickly. You need to be \_\_\_\_\_ and always be \_\_\_\_\_.
- If you are a \_\_\_\_\_. Because it is highly \_\_\_\_\_ that you know \_\_\_\_\_ about IT. Not even if you had been studying for the last \_\_\_\_\_ years... Don't be that \_\_\_\_\_!

**3. There is a wide variety of jobs in IT. Can you match the jobs in the box to the descriptions?**

IT Salesperson	Network Engineer	Security Engineer	AI Ethics Specialist
Blog Administrator	Data Engineer	Applications Developer	IoT Systems Architect
Help-Desk Technician	IT Consultant	Scrum Master	IT Manager
Software Engineer	Technical Writer	Hardware Engineer	Machine-Learning Engineer
Systems Engineer	Robotics Engineer	Test Engineer	
Natural Language Processing (NLP) Engineer	Augmented/Virtual Reality Developer		

- A \_\_\_\_\_ designs and tests the physical components and circuitry that make up modern computing devices.

- b. A \_\_\_\_\_ develops and maintains code that powers a wide range of software solutions across industries.
- c. A \_\_\_\_\_ manages digital content platforms by updating, securing, and optimizing websites to keep audiences engaged.
- d. A \_\_\_\_\_ safeguards digital assets by implementing defenses and continuously monitoring systems for threats.
- e. A \_\_\_\_\_ is normally a freelancer who advises organizations on optimizing tech strategies by analysing existing systems, recommending improvements, and guiding implementation for enhanced efficiency.
- f. A \_\_\_\_\_ oversees technology operations by coordinating teams, managing budgets, and aligning IT systems with strategic business goals.
- g. A \_\_\_\_\_ explains technical information in guides, manuals, tutorials, etc.
- h. A \_\_\_\_\_ builds and manages the communication pathways that enable computers and devices to exchange information.
- i. A \_\_\_\_\_ constructs and maintains the infrastructure that collects, stores, and processes large volumes of information.
- j. A \_\_\_\_\_ integrates diverse technologies to ensure that both physical devices and digital applications work seamlessly together making an organization more efficient and productive.
- k. A \_\_\_\_\_ builds relationships with clients by matching innovative tech solutions to business needs, with the goal of negotiating a commercial agreement.
- l. A \_\_\_\_\_ develops tailored software solutions by writing, testing, and refining code to create applications that streamline business processes.
- m. A \_\_\_\_\_ delivers frontline technical assistance by addressing user queries and resolving issues.
- n. A \_\_\_\_\_ facilitates agile\* teams by coordinating sprints, removing obstacles, and promoting effective collaboration for timely project delivery.
- o. A \_\_\_\_\_ designs algorithms and models that enable computers to learn from data and make intelligent decisions.
- p. A \_\_\_\_\_ rigorously evaluates systems and software to uncover defects and ensure optimal performance.
- q. A \_\_\_\_\_ works on language-related AI systems like chatbots and translation tools.
- r. A \_\_\_\_\_ ensures that AI systems are designed and deployed in an ethical and fair manner.
- s. A \_\_\_\_\_ designs networks of interconnected devices and sensors that drive smart homes, cities, and industrial automation by ensuring seamless data exchange.
- t. A \_\_\_\_\_ integrates sensors, control algorithms, and mechanical systems to create autonomous machines for manufacturing, healthcare, or consumer products.
- u. A \_\_\_\_\_ creates immersive digital environments and interactive interfaces that transform education, training, and entertainment experiences.

\* **Agile** is a philosophy for software development. It consists in a project management approach that follows a specific framework (scrum), which breaks the project into short cycles (sprints) where cross-functional team works collaboratively.

**4. Now listen to a recording of five people employed in computing talking about their work. Match each extract to the correct job from above and write a brief description of his/her main tasks.**

Speaker 1	Job:	Main tasks:
Speaker 2	Job:	Main tasks:
Speaker 3	Job:	Main tasks:
Speaker 4	Job:	Main tasks:
Speaker 5	Job:	Main tasks: