Study Guide
CompTIA A+ 220 801 Domain 4 Printers
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Printers account for 11 percent of the CompTIA A+ 220-801 examination. If you are not prepared for printer questions then you may very well fail the test. Students have a lot of problems with printer questions on the CompTIA, not because they are difficult, but rather students think printers are boring or unimportant when it's time to study printers.

Also, students have very limited experience with installing, configuring and troubleshooting printers.   To best overcome the lack of experience they need additional materials to better prepare for the test. I have found that in addition to the textbook and lab manual, some of the best sources of information to prepare for the text printer questions as at the following links.

HP mobile device printing
http://www8.hp.com/us/en/support-topics/mobile-printing/understand-mobile-print.html
http://www8.hp.com/us/en/support-topics/how-to-print-mobile-devices.html

Microsoft printer repair
http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows-vista/Troubleshoot-printer-problems

Open printer troubleshooter in Windows
http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows7/Open-the-Printer-troubleshooter

Microsoft cannot print from Homegroup
http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows7/Why-cant-I-print-to-a-printer-in-my-homegroup

Microsoft help and support for Windows XP printing problems
http://support.microsoft.com/gp/printxp

Microsoft troubleshoot network printer problems
http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows-vista/Troubleshoot-network-printer-problems

28 pages of troubleshoot file and print sharing in Windows XP
http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=744

Microsoft troubleshoot print problems in Windows 8 and Windows 8 RT
http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows-8/how-to-solve-printing-problems

4.0 Printers

4.1 Explain the differences between the various printer types and summarize the associated imaging process.

Laser - Imaging drum, fuser assembly, transfer belt, transfer roller, pickup rollers, separate pads, duplexing assembly. Imaging process: processing, charging, exposing, developing, transferring, fusing and cleaning.

Write a short explanation for each of the laser image processing sequence steps and then commit to memory. Note: Originally there were only six steps, now there are seven. The term "processing" is new in this examination. Processing is referring to "raster image processing."

Processing

Charging

Exposing

Developing

Transferring

Fusing

Cleaning

Write the purpose of each of the following laser printer parts.

Imaging drum

Fuser assembly

Transfer belt

Transfer roller

Pickup rollers

Separate pads

Duplexing assembly.

Inkjet - Ink cartridge, print head, roller, feeder, duplexing assembly, carriage and belt. Calibrating an ink jet printer.
Explain how an ink jet printer is calibrated.

Thermal - Feed assembly, heating element, special thermal paper.

Impact - Print head, ribbon, tractor feed, impact paper.
Most students are very familiar with inkjet printers but have absolutely no experience with impact type printers. Be sure to familiarize yourself with impact printers.

Write a short description and purpose of each part in the space provided.
Print head

Ribbon

Tractor feed

Impact paper

4.2 Given a scenario, install, and configure printers.
Use appropriate printer drivers for a given operating system.
The objective about appropriate printer drivers is in reference to 32-bit and 64-bit drivers. What is important about 32-bit vs. 64-bit printer drivers?

Print device sharing
A. **Wired**
What is the advantage or disadvantage of each printer wiring method?

   USB

   Parallel

   Serial

   Ethernet

B. **Wireless**
What is the advantage or disadvantage of each printer wireless method?

   Bluetooth

   802.11x

   Infrared (IR)

Printer hardware print server

Printer sharing

Sharing local/networked printer via Operating System settings.

Write a short description of how to setup a local printer share.

Write a brief description of how to setup a network printer share.

4.3 Given a scenario, perform printer maintenance.

For each type of printer listed below, go to a manufacturer website and download a corresponding user copy for that type of printer. Read and then summarize how to perform the task as related to the type of printer indicated below.

Laser

Replacing toner, applying maintenance kit, calibration, and cleaning.

Thermal

Replace paper, clean heating element, and remove debris.

Impact

Replace ribbon, replace print head, and replace paper.