Staying Secure in the Digital World

1. Any two of the following: home address, school name, telephone number, passwords, or full date of birth. (2 marks)

Working: Recall of personal data categories.

1 mark for each valid piece of personal information identified.

2. Using unique passwords prevents hackers from accessing all your accounts if one password is stolen. Strong passwords make it harder for automated software to guess your login details. (2 marks)

Look for: The concept of preventing 'domino effect' account breaches and increasing security against guessing.

Good: It stops people from getting into your accounts easily.

Better: It is important because if someone guesses one password, they cannot get into all your other accounts too.

Best: Using unique passwords ensures that if one account is compromised, your other accounts remain secure. Strong, complex passwords also prevent automated systems from guessing your login details.

What moves an answer up: Moving from a simple statement to explaining the consequence of a breach and the mechanism of security.

3. Mo should not click the link. He should tell a trusted adult immediately. The link is likely a scam designed to steal data or install harmful software, and the £50 prize is a trick. (4 marks)

Look for: Refusal to click, reporting to an adult, and identifying the link as a potential scam.

Good: Mo should not click it because it is probably a trick to steal his information.

Better: Mo should ignore the message and tell a parent or teacher. He shouldn't click the link because it could be a scam to get his personal details.

Best: Mo must not click the link as it is likely a phishing scam. He should report the message, block the sender, and inform a trusted adult so they can help him stay safe.

What moves an answer up: Adding the specific action of reporting/blocking and identifying the nature of the threat.

4. A digital footprint is the permanent record of your online activity. It can affect your future because schools or employers might look at your online history when you are older. (4 marks)

Look for: The idea of permanence and the potential impact on future reputation.

Good: It is everything you do online that stays there forever.

Better: A digital footprint is the trail of data you leave behind. It matters because things you post now might be seen by people in the future.

Best: A digital footprint is the permanent record of your online actions. It is important because future employers or schools could search for your history, so you must be careful what you post today.

What moves an answer up: Connecting the definition to the long-term consequence of reputation management.

5. 1. Take a screenshot as evidence. 2. Do not reply to the unkind messages. 3. Report the user to the platform and tell a trusted adult. (8 marks)

Look for: Evidence gathering, disengagement, and reporting/seeking help.

Good: Tell a teacher, don't reply to them, and block the person being mean.

Better: You should take a screenshot of the messages for proof, tell a trusted adult, and report the user to the app so they can be stopped.

Best: First, take a screenshot of the unkind messages as evidence. Second, do not engage or reply to the bully. Third, report the behaviour to the platform and speak to a trusted adult to get support for your friend.

What moves an answer up: Including the importance of evidence and the distinction between reporting to the platform and seeking adult support.

6. 1. Always ask an adult before downloading a new app. 2. Keep your personal information private. 3. If something makes you feel worried, tell an adult. 4. Never talk to people you do not know in real life. 5. Be kind to others when you are playing online. (5 marks)

Working: Drafting a 5-sentence guide.

1 mark per relevant, clear safety instruction (max 5).

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer demonstrates an understanding that the internet is a public space where actions have consequences. Pupils should consistently prioritise reporting to a trusted adult.

If your child is stuck

Ask the child: 'If you were in a real shop and a stranger offered you a prize for your home address, what would you do?' Use this to bridge the gap to online safety.

Common mistakes to watch for

Children often believe that deleting a post removes it permanently, or that 'private' settings make them completely invisible to everyone.