Comparing input devices

The way that you can compare two devices is by comparing their functions (what they do) for example comparing the similarities that both input devices share, the devices can also be compared by their costs, support, ease of use, compatibility, portability, speed, its strengths and limitations.

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|  | Mouse | Tablet |
| Strengths | An interaction device allowing the user to input information into their PCs. With image processing, whilst using a mouse you are to use the mouse to click, select and draw anything possible and may result in either good or not great drawings | Enables a user to benefit from their touchscreen experience and allows the user to draw with their hands exactly the way they wish |
| Limitations | Can get dirty/sticky, if it contains a ball, it may not work well without mice pad, if it uses laser, its battery may run out and would need to be replaced | Needs charge in order to run, battery life may run out quickly, as it is touch screen, it may glitch at times |
| Quality | Depends on which brand is bought | Provides good resolution for viewing images and videos |
| Speed | Can be quite speedy, although with laser mice, some may freeze at times | Speedy due to its good performance |
| Ease of use | a mouse it straightforward to use, just its two buttons left-click and right-click | it takes some time to get used to and is not as easy to use without practise |
| Cost | a typical computer mouse can be bought for under £10 | a tablet would be more expensive and over £100 |
| portability | A wired mouse is not portable | although a tablet is |
| support | The support of a computer mouse would be that although it is easy to set up (it would just have to be plugged in by its USB port), there may be some difficulties as mice these days use lasers tracking movement. If the laser does not work then this results in having to replace the mouse | A tablet would come with a manual on how to use it and if problems were to occur, a set of instructions on how to solve and avoid them in the future |
| Compatibility | Mice are compatible with every PC and even laptops | Not every tablet is compatible with PCs, due to the fact that the PC may not be upgraded |

Comparing Software packages

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|  | Adobe Photoshop | Microsoft Paint |
| Strengths | Able to use a wide variety of tools and features to edit and manipulate images, good interface | Good interface, easy to use, can be able to edit images simply |
| Limitations | Uses a lot of RAM, users are to learn quite a lot in order to use it | Provides basic features |
| Speed | Takes a while to load up | Opens up instantly |
| Ease of use | Takes a while to get used to, as it contains a lot of tools and features | Very easy, yet very user-friendly |
| Cost | £100 - £800 | Free |
| Features | HTML publishing  Cropping  Copy and paste  SWF compression  Rendering  Tweening  Controls  Debugging | Free-form select  Select  Drawing tools such as paintbrush, pen, fill, pencil, airbrush  Text  Copy, paste and cut  Cropping images  Variety of colours  Zoom |
| support | Online support, manuals, can call in | Online support |