**Explain why cybercrime is now one of the fastest growing crimes in the UK. [12]**

Candidate A

Cybercrime is an illegal act using the internet. The crime takes place on a computer device, such as a laptop, mobile phone or tablet. Cybercrime over the past century has grown massively. There are many reasons for this. The first reason is that most criminals can access the internet. Today most people can access the internet using 3G, 4G and Wi-Fi. The majority of households will have some form of internet access and devices to use the internet on, for example, mobile phones, computers, laptops and tablets. This makes cybercrime more popular today, especially with most people owning a mobile phone.

Another reason is the ease at which the crime can be committed. Today criminals can sit in the comfort of their own homes committing cybercrime without needing to face the victim or travel to another location. This makes the crime more appealing. During the 20th century a range of new cybercrimes have emerged, for example, computer viruses, phishing scams and harassment. Computer viruses are created by criminals and then spread to other devices through the internet. This can crash a computer system and stop a device from working completely, needing costly repairs to recover the computer. Also computer viruses can be used to destroy important information, such as bank details and personal details held by popular companies with many customers. Phishing scams are e-mails sent to people to trick them into giving personal details, such as, passwords or bank details. Once this is done criminals can take large sums of money out of people’s accounts. Lastly the internet can be used as a form of harassment.

Most people now have more than one social media account, such as Facebook and Snap Chat. Criminals can use these to send lots of abusive comments about gender, race or religion. Therefore, cybercrime has become a fast growing crime due to the ease at which it be can committed.