



Inputs, processes and outputs in a real system

4th Class

Print and cut along the dashed lines. These carry the **text a group reads**: a job to do, a brief to research, or notes to identify by. Check the lesson's teacher notes for how many sets each group needs and how they are used: some lessons hand out one card per group, others sort or sequence a full set.

Card A: Supermarket self-checkout

What it is: A till you use yourself in many Irish supermarkets. What people did before: A cashier scanned every item and took the money. What changed: Shoppers scan, bag and pay with less staff time per basket. Clues: Input ideas: scan a barcode; place an item on the bagging scale; hold or insert a card; enter a fruit code. Process ideas: look up the price; check the weight matches; total the bill; check payment. Output ideas: item name and price on screen; unexpected-item warning; total to pay; receipt printed

Card B: Weather app

What it is: An app on a phone or tablet that shows a forecast, such as Met Éireann's service or a similar everyday weather app. What people did before: Listened to radio forecasts, watched TV weather, or looked at the sky. What changed: You can check rain, wind and temperature for your place in seconds. Clues: Input ideas: open the app; allow location; type a town name; pull to refresh. Process ideas: fetch forecast data; match it to your place; choose icons and numbers to show. Output ideas: temperature; rain icons; wind speed; a warning banner; an hourly or daily chart

Card C: Library self-issue machine

What it is: A machine in many school and public libraries where you borrow a book yourself. What people did before: A librarian scanned each book and stamped the due date. What changed: You can check out books with a shorter queue at the desk. Clues: Input ideas: place the book on the pad; scan a library card; choose borrow on the screen. Process ideas: check the book can be borrowed; match it to the card; update the loan record; unlock the security tag. Output ideas: beep or screen message; due date shown or printed; book ready to take; error if the card or book is not valid