

Spec	Samsung Galaxy Note 4		Sony Xperia Z3		Apple iPhone 6		Apple iPhone 6 Plus		Comments	Apple iPhone 5S		
		Score		Score		Score		Score			Score	
(universal features, like 3.5" jack for headphones, vibration, or that they have latest Android and will also have the next version, not mentioned)												
(same here)												
Data	4G	Yes (up to 300Mbps)	10	Yes (up to 150Mbps)	9	Yes (up to 150Mbps)	9	Yes (up to 150Mbps)	9	All capable of 4G LTE. iPhone supports more LTE bands, but Note 4 supports LTE cat.6 which is double the speed.	Yes (up to 150Mbps)	9
	WiFi	a/b/g/n/ac, dual-band, 2x2 MIMO	10	a/b/g/n/ac, dual-band	9	a/b/g/n/ac, dual-band	9	a/b/g/n/ac, dual-band	9	All latest WiFi specs, but N4 had to top this, since it has 2x2 MIMO (so on a 2x2 MIMO router will give faster WiFi).	a/b/g/n, dual-band	7
	BT	4.1	10	4.0	9	4.0	9	4.0	9	Samsung has the newest BT specs.	4.0	9
	USB	2.0, MHL3 (video-out), host	9	2.0, MHL3 (video-out), host	9	No (USB 2.0 charging)	6	No (USB 2.0 charging)	6	No USB 3.0 (which is mostly useless and a bit less compatible). iPhone uses its own connector.	No (USB 2.0 charging)	6
Physical	Height	153,5		146		138,1		158,1		No score, subjective. You can't want a bigger screen without bigger dimensions. Other want small, other want large. Interesting to note that iPhone 6+ is very large for its screen size.	123,8	
	Width	78,6		72		67		77,8		No score, subjective. You can't want a bigger screen without bigger dimensions. Other want small, other want large.	58,6	
	Depth	8,5	7	7,3	8	6,9	9	7,1	9	Thinner is better.	7,6	6
	Weight	176	8	152	9	129	9	172	8	Lighter is better. Screen size is taken into consideration.	112	9
	IP rating	No	0	IP58	9	No	0	No	0	Z3 water resistant 1m/30min and dustproof (would be 10 if IP68). I think this should be standard for premium devices even for people that claim to not need it (accidents happen).	No	0
	Body type	Gorilla Glass 3, aluminum, plastic rear (interchangeable)	8	Aluminum, shutter-proof glass	9	Aluminum, shutter-proof glass	9	Aluminum, shutter-proof glass	9	N4 rear is plastic but removable and interchangeable (there is already a Swarovski back).	Aluminum, Gorilla Glass	9
Sensors/ Transmitters/ Receivers	GPS	GPS, A-GPS, GLONASS, Beidou etc.	10	GPS, A-GPS, GLONASS	10	GPS, A-GPS, GLONASS	9	GPS, A-GPS, GLONASS	9	Full GPS support. Unless proven to the contrary iPhone supports LESS GPS standards (and less deployed satellites).	GPS, A-GPS, GLONASS	9
	NFC	Yes	10	Yes	10	Yes (locked for Apple Pay only)	5	Yes (locked for Apple Pay only)	5	Seems to be a "must" for future transactions. Not yet very important though. Also NFC is useful for simplifying pairing of devices that support it (by touching them). I find it stupid that Apple actually locks AGAIN a protocol.	No	0
	Infrared	Yes	10	No?	8	No	8	No	8	Infrared makes a comeback in some devices. Useful for some. Sony COULD have it because some other Sony devices have it.	No	8
	Standard	Yes	10	Yes	10	Yes	10	Yes	10	By standard I define accelerometer, gyrometer.	Yes	10
	Compass	Yes	10	Yes	10	Yes	10	Yes	10	This is starting to become standard.	Yes	10
	Proximity	Yes	10	Yes	10	Yes	10	Yes	10	And this.	Yes	10
	Barometer	No	8	Yes	10	Yes	10	Yes	10	And this.	No	5
	FM radio	Yes	8	Yes + RDS	10	No	8	No	8	N4 could have FM (N3 didn't have, N2 and N1 have). Some don't find it very useful as it needs headphones. There are BT headphones with FM.	No	8
	Other	Fingerprint, UV, heart-rate, SpO2	10	No	5	Fingerprint	7	Fingerprint	7	Interesting "healthy life" extra sensors in N4 and fingerprint security. iPhone retains the fingerprint sensor that SS Reintroduced (because they were not the first).	Fingerprint	7
	Display	Size	5,7		5,2		4,7		5,5		No score, subjective. Both have large screens. N4 and maybe iPhone 6+ are more of a "phablet".	4,0
Resolution		1440 x 2560 (QHD, 3.68MP)	10	1080 x 1920 (FullHD, 2.07MP)	8	750 x 1334 (non-standard, 1MP)	6	1080 x 1920 (FullHD, 2.07MP)	7	N4 is "covered" for the next few years though, while FullHD is starting to be "yesterday". Apple chooses a proprietary resolution and "just" FullHD for the huge 5.5 screen. This wouldn't be so important if it was not Apple that got into this "retina" game first and now losing the battle.	640 x 1136 (non-standard, 640Kp)	6
DPI		515	10	424	9	326	6	401	8	Both Androids have great pixel density. N4 kills everything in the water. iPhones do not go well at all in this spec, with 6 (non-plus) barely retaining the "retina" moniker.	326	6
Type		Super AMOLED	10	IPS LCD with Triluminos/X-Reality Engine	8	IPS LCD	7	IPS LCD	7	Super AMOLED is superior. More battery economy, real black, more vibrant, larger color gamut. Extra Z3 technology gives an 8, else it would be lower.	IPS LCD	7
Sound	Speakers	One (rear)	5	Stereo (sides)	8	One (bottom side)	6	One (bottom side)	6	Z3 is better in terms of on-board speakers (in Sony tradition). Of course for hi-fi audio someone connects external speakers. iPhones score a bit better than N4 for speaker placement (N4 needs to be on its face to fully expose speaker).	One (bottom side)	6
Cameras	Front	3.7MP, 1080p video, wide "selfie" mode	10	2.2MP, 1080p video	8	1.2MP, 720P video	4	1.2MP, 720P video	4	N4 could possibly have the best front camera in the market. iPhones actually get an "F" in their sub-par implementation (and f2.2 cannot save them).	1.2MP, 720P video	4
	Rear (main)	16MP, Optical Image Stabilization, 4K recording	8	20.7MP, 4K recording	8	8MP, 1080p recording	5	8MP, Optical Image Stabilization, 1080p recording	5	Very good camera for Androids, as both are also in digital camera market (Sony more experienced). Z3 more pixels, N4 has OIS which makes better photos. iPhones are technically "just passing" this grade, although there is no doubt they will take good photos (traditionally).	8MP, 1080p recording	5
	Flash	LED	7	LED	7	Dual LED, dual tone	9	Dual LED, dual tone	9	A department that could be better for Androids. Dual color flashes, dual flashes etc. Here iPhone does better.	Dual LED, dual tone	9
Memory	RAM	3GB	10	3GB	10	1GB	5	1GB	5	3GB is the top available in the market, it is already plenty. iPhone seems to still keep 1GB. iOS seems to be more effective in memory management but we really really doubt that it can multitask as effectively. Apple does this possibly for making the phones both cheaper to manufacture and more battery efficient.	1GB	5
	On-board	32GB	8	16/32GB	7	16/64/128GB	8	16/64/128GB	8	Z3 has lower score because there shouldn't be a 16GB premium model in 2014 and probably this will be the most common unfortunately. 16GB are REALLY restricting for apps. iPhones score low for three reasons: (1) the artificial push for their market by eliminating the popular 32GB version, (2) because this is the ONLY storage of the device and (3) because storage sizes are priced accordingly.	16/32/64GB	6
	microSD	Yes, XC	10	Yes, XC	10	No	0	No	0	Androids, theoretically up to 128GB extra for data (although N4 mentions 64GB).	No	0
Processors	CPU	Qualcomm 805 @ 2.7GHz (4-core, 28nm) Exynos 5433 @ 1.9/1.3 (4+4-core, 20nm) for select markets	10	Qualcomm 801 @ 2.5GHz (4-core, 28nm)	8	A8 @ 1.4GHz (2-core, 20nm, 64bit)	6	A8 @ 1.4GHz (2-core, 20nm, 64bit)	6	N4 goes for newer and more GHz CPU, also better battery economy. Best out there before 64bit becomes mainstream. Also Samsung octa-core for some markets. iPhone are 64bit, but only dual-core and with much slower CPU frequency. There seems to be a misconception what 64bit architecture is, but calling something "64bit" seems to be good enough for semi-educated public.	A7 @ 1.4GHz (2-core, 28nm, 64bit)	6
	GPU	Adreno 420 Mali-T760 for select markets	10	Adreno 330	8	PowerVR GX6650	9	PowerVR GX6650	9	Part of the CPU but needs separate mention and score as 805 includes also a newer stronger GPU (and Lynos seems even faster). iPhone uses dedicated PowerVR chip. There are no comparisons between the two GPU, so I put them in the middle between the two Snapdragon generations (also related that they are fed by a much slower CPU).	PowerVR GX6430	9
Battery	Type & Size	3220mAh removable, fast-charge technology (50% in 30min)	10	3100mAh non-removable	8	1810mAh non-removable	6	2910mAh non-removable	7	Having a replaceable battery is great and N4 even manages to have a larger one. You can have waterproof device with removable battery (like S5). Fast charge is very practical. Apple only releases talk/stand-by/data times which are way less than those declared by Sony. Samsung has not released such data but uses a more power-efficient chip than Z3. iPhone 6 battery VERY small.	Non-removable, 1560mAh	7
Other	Stylus	Yes, 2048-level pressures sensitive screen, angle/rotation/power sensor	10	No	8	No	8	No	8	Since for some (even Note owners) this is almost useless, I don't give much score difference. If someone needs it, it is perfectly implemented, better than N3.	No	8
	Extras	Samsung Gear VR, Gear (wearables)	9	PS4 Remote Play, Smartwear (wearables), DSC series cameras	9	Apple Watch	8	Apple Watch	8	All companies seem to concentrate on wearables (smart watches etc.) but both companies also have some nice cool-to-have extras like the VR set for Samsung N4 specifically (that reports say it is better than 8 sounds) and DSC cameras for Sony (which can make your Z3 a DSLR). Apple does not release any special extras except the new Apple Watch, but 3rd party products make up for most of this lack.	Apple Watch	8
N/S sun up...	There are only two things to criticize for Note 4: Not being water resistant (when competition is and Samsung MAKES some models water resistant too) and that they could make it feel EVEN more premium (although it is WAY better in this department than S5 etc.). Rear is plastic, but also removable, so we could see fantastic replacements (also makes covers fit perfectly as they replace the back too).	287	Z3 is actually a great device, with fantastic industrial design, but there is one strong thing to criticize: That it is a minor update over Z2, with no real new "innovative" (or even copied from others) features, like fingerprint sensor (just a gimmick for many) or stronger CPU (as 805 is already available).	278	Except the new screen size and making the device thinner, Apple did not introduce any other major upgrade over S5 (at least that can be immediately be felt by the user). Presenting "plus" as a "better" model (over 6), not just a "different" model, was not a good move. Real innovation is missing from 6 and it follows from a distance in most technical specs. Removing 32GB from the series, is one more time Apple "handicaps" their market.	230	Daring move to reach 5.5" (going far from original 4" that was supposedly "the best size" according to THEIR marketing), but had more to give it some more features over iPhone 6. So it's not just a matter of screen size choice. "Plus" is in the awkward position to market as competition to top-end Android, yet it doesn't really match any of the specs. At least marketing it as "different/better in price" would be a more honest approach.	234	Seems that Samsung has won the crown back for now (but close - so if some believe waterproof is a must, they can go to Z3 without much regret on other specs). If they made N4 also waterproof it would be THE killer device to have. At least for dedicated Android users (as others will also want to see if iPhone 6 will have any REAL innovation - not something copied and presented as new and fantastic in the well known Apple Marketing way - except catching up on screen sizes - and thumb sizes). No "breakthroughs" for N4 and Z3 though too (except the super-premium Note Edge model maybe - which is questionable what market will "catch on"). These seem to be the last premium models to be 32GB as 64bit is coming in 2015 (with no real tangible benefits in 2014 though). The market also needs some brave innovative moves sooner or later. Then again Apple did not present any real innovation in their new top-end device either. So Android vendors know internally that what they give is already "enough". They are most probably right.	214	Seems that iPhone 6, is not that much of a real upgrade. Of course for someone looking only between Apple devices, it is a step up (and seems that "step up" means towards Android specs).	
Why buy this?	It is by far the highest spec'd smartphone of Q4/2014. Its quality has improved over previous models (less plastic used) and Samsung is well known for its fantastic support esp. for the high-end devices - also very well supported by 3rd party.		Very premium construction and elegant design. Waterproof. Very good specs. Good support by Sony.		If you are dedicated Apple fan and want to upgrade and come closer to 2014, but cannot suffer (?) a huge screen. It is also the phone most celebrities will get (we know celebrities are clueless about technology).		If you are dedicated Apple fan and want to have the latest and best and want the big screen. The most "geeky" celebrities will have this model. Some only because it's the most expensive version (which is all that matters actually).			I don't know. I wouldn't.		
Why not buy this?	If you don't like at least some plastic (the back cover). Or if you have to have waterproof.		It's a minor update over Z2 (although it doesn't matter if you don't HAVE a Z2). Or you hate non-removable batteries. Or you want some more hardware innovation, not just "we are Sony so we do it better anyway" (which works for Apple).		If you are not into "Apple ecosystem" (and philosophy), don't bother. If you want "high end", buy something more powerful.		If you are not into "Apple ecosystem" (and philosophy), don't bother. Also if your thumb is not long enough (yes I know about the "one hand" mode).			Because you can buy a better Android? Because if you want to stay with Apple, better buy the latest model?		
v190916.3	I probably miss at least a couple of high-end Android models like LG G3 and HTC One M8, but this is my prerogative (as writer of this comparison) and I believe that somehow although very capable, they will trail the sales of the models above. Finally I decided to include iPhone 5S specs just for fans of Apple to see what really changed from the last version.											