

Basic Computer Skills Knowledge Check

Basic Computer Skills · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. What year is widely considered the birth year of the personal computer, with the introduction of the Altair 8800?

- A) 1971
- B) 1975**
- C) 1981
- D) 1984

2. Who co-founded Microsoft Corporation with Paul Allen in 1975?

- A) Steve Jobs
- B) Bill Gates**
- C) Steve Wozniak
- D) Larry Ellison

3. What was the initial release date of the first iPhone, significantly impacting the mobile computing landscape?

- A) June 29, 2005
- B) January 9, 2007**
- C) April 3, 2008
- D) June 22, 2010

4. Which company launched the first commercially successful graphical user interface (GUI) based personal computer, the Macintosh, in 1984?

- A) IBM
- B) Microsoft
- C) Apple**
- D) Hewlett-Packard

5. What is the name of the foundational protocol suite that enables communication on the internet, standardized in the early 1980s?

- A) HTTP
- B) FTP
- C) TCP/IP**
- D) SMTP

6. How many bits typically constitute a byte in modern computing standards?

- A) 4
- B) 8**
- C) 16
- D) 32

7. What was the name of the first web browser to gain widespread popularity, released in 1993?

- A) Internet Explorer
- B) Netscape Navigator
- C) Mosaic**
- D) Chrome

8. Who is credited with inventing the World Wide Web in 1989 while working at CERN?

- A) Vint Cerf
- B) Robert Kahn
- C) Tim Berners-Lee**
- D) Linus Torvalds

9. What is the standard storage unit for data that represents one billion bytes?

- A) Kilobyte
- B) Megabyte
- C) Gigabyte**
- D) Terabyte

10. Which operating system, developed by Linus Torvalds, was first released in 1991?

- A) Windows
- B) macOS
- C) Unix
- D) Linux**

11. What is the typical clock speed unit for modern CPUs, representing billions of cycles per second?

- A) MHz
- B) GHz**
- C) THz
- D) KHz

12. What year did Google officially launch its search engine?

- A) 1996
- B) 1998**
- C) 2000
- D) 2004

13. What is the primary function of Random Access Memory (RAM) in a computer?

- A) Long-term data storage
- B) Temporary data storage for active programs**
- C) Processing power
- D) Displaying graphics

14. Which type of port is commonly used for connecting peripherals like keyboards and mice, often identified by a specific color (e.g., purple for keyboard, green for mouse) in older systems?

- A) USB
- B) HDMI
- C) Ethernet
- D) PS/2**

15. What was the original name of the operating system that would eventually become macOS?

- A) System Software**
- B) Mac OS X
- C) Copland
- D) A/UX

16. In computing, what does the acronym 'URL' stand for?

- A) Uniform Resource Locator**
- B) Universal Resource Link
- C) Unified Record Logic
- D) User Retrieval Language

17. What is the primary function of a graphics processing unit (GPU)?

- A) Executing general-purpose computations
- B) Managing network connections
- C) Rendering images and videos**
- D) Storing system files

18. What year was the first widely adopted graphical user interface (GUI) operating system for personal computers, Xerox Star, introduced?

- A) 1973
- B) 1981**
- C) 1984
- D) 1987

19. What is the term for the physical components of a computer system?

- A) Software
- B) Firmware
- C) Hardware**
- D) Middleware

20. Which of the following is a widely used file format for compressed archives, often associated with the `.zip` extension?

- A) JPEG
- B) MP3
- C) ZIP**
- D) PDF