

History and Evolution of Computing

Computer Science · Answer Key · 30 Questions

1. What is the act of counting with one's fingers called?

- A) Dactylonomy**
- B) Binary counting
- C) Digital mapping
- D) Abacus logic

2. Which ancient device used knotted strings to store and convey information?

- A) Abacus
- B) Quipu**
- C) Napier's Bones
- D) Pascaline

3. In what year was the first automatic digital calculator in the US, the Harvard Mark I, invented?

- A) 1949
- B) 1884
- C) 1944**
- D) 1946

4. Who is credited with the invention of the Analytical Engine?

- A) Blaise Pascal
- B) Herman Hollerith
- C) John Napier
- D) Charles Babbage**

5. Which generation of computers used vacuum tubes as their main electronic component?

- A) First**
- B) Second
- C) Third
- D) Fourth

6. What main electronic component defines the second generation of computers?

- A) Microprocessor
- B) Transistor**
- C) Integrated Circuit
- D) Vacuum Tube

7. What is the primary electronic component used in fourth-generation computers?

- A) Artificial Intelligence
- B) Vacuum Tubes
- C) Microprocessors**
- D) Magnetic Drums

8. Which type of computer is known for performing at or near the highest operational rate?

- A) Workstation
- B) Mainframe
- C) Supercomputer**
- D) Minicomputer

9. Which computer type combines the capabilities of both analog and digital computers?

- A) Hybrid**
- B) Personal
- C) Mainframe
- D) Workstation

10. What is the main advantage of fifth-generation computers?

- A) They use vacuum tubes
- B) They are based on Artificial Intelligence**
- C) They only use machine language
- D) They are solely mechanical

11. What programming language is associated with the third generation of computers?

- A) Machine language
- B) Assembly language
- C) High-level language**
- D) Binary code

12. Which device was the first programmable general-purpose electronic digital computer?

- A) ENIAC**
- B) EDVAC
- C) EDSAC
- D) Analytical Engine

13. What was the primary function of Napier's Bones?

- A) Adding and subtracting
- B) Multiplication and division**
- C) Binary conversion
- D) Internet browsing

14. Which computer component is analogous to today's processor in the Analytical Engine?

- A) Store
- B) Mill**
- C) Punch card
- D) Vacuum tube

15. What is another name for a Personal Computer?

- A) Mainframe
- B) Microcomputer**
- C) Supercomputer
- D) Workstation

16. What type of memory does a fourth-generation computer use?

- A) Magnetic drums
- B) Magnetic tape
- C) Semiconductor memory**
- D) Ultrasonic tanks

17. What does the 'A' in ENIAC stand for?

- A) Automatic**
- B) Analytical
- C) Assembly
- D) Arithmetic

18. Which generation introduced monitors and keyboards?

- A) First
- B) Second
- C) Third**
- D) Fourth

19. What is a group of two or more computer systems linked together called?

- A) Network**
- B) Database
- C) Grid
- D) Processor

20. Analog computers represent physical quantities that are...

- A) Discrete
- B) Continuously variable**
- C) Digital
- D) Binary

21. Which device was used to process data for the 1890 U.S. Census?

- A) Tabulating Machine**
- B) Pascaline
- C) Abacus
- D) ENIAC

22. What is the main characteristic of the fifth generation regarding input?

- A) Punched cards
- B) Paper tape
- C) Speech/Voice input**
- D) Magnetic tape

23. Which computer generation is characterized by the use of ULSI technology?

- A) Third
- B) Fourth
- C) Fifth**
- D) Second

24. What is the primary purpose of a workstation?

- A) Individual gaming
- B) Complex professional tasks**
- C) Simple calculations
- D) Mass storage only

25. Which device is often called the 'counting frame'?

- A) Abacus**
- B) Quipu
- C) Pascaline
- D) Napier's Bones

26. What was the first mainframe to use binary systems instead of decimal?

- A) ENIAC
- B) EDVAC**
- C) EDSAC
- D) Harvard Mark I

27. How are numbers entered into the Pascaline?

- A) Voice
- B) Dials**
- C) Keyboard
- D) Punched cards

28. What is the main material used in the construction of mechanical calculators?

- A) Plastic
- B) Ivory
- C) Metal**
- D) Silicon

29. Which generation used magnetic drums for main memory?

- A) First**
- B) Second
- C) Third
- D) Fourth

30. What is the function of a computer?

- A) To destroy data
- B) To transform data into meaningful information**
- C) To generate heat
- D) To store only analog signals