

**Read the following text and answer True/ False/ No information**



## **History of The Computer**

The computer as we know it today had its beginning with a 19th century English mathematics professor named Charles Babbage. He designed the Analytical Engine and it was this design that the basic framework of the computers of today are based on. Generally speaking, computers can be classified into three generations. Each generation lasted for a certain period of time and each gave us either a new and improved computer or an improvement to the existing computer.

**First generation: 1937 – 1946** - In 1937 the first electronic digital computer was built by Dr. John V. Atanasoff and Clifford Berry. It was called the Atanasoff - Berry Computer (ABC). In 1943 an electronic computer named the Colossus was built for the military. Other developments continued until in 1946 the first general-purpose digital computer, the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer (ENIAC) was built. It is said that this computer weighed 30 tons, and had 18,000 vacuum tubes which were used for processing. When this computer was turned on for the first time, lights dimmed in sections of Philadelphia. Computers of this generation could only perform one single task, and they had no operating system.

**Second generation: 1947 – 1962** - This generation of computers used transistors instead of vacuum tubes, which were more reliable. In 1951, the first computer for commercial use was introduced to the public; the Universal Automatic Computer

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(UNIVAC 1). In 1953 the International Business Machine (IBM) 650 and 700 series computers made their mark in the computer world. During this generation of computers over 100 computer programming languages were developed and computers had memory and operating systems. Storage media such as tape and disk were in use.

Third generation: 1963 - present - The invention of integrated circuit brought us the third generation of computers. With this invention, computers became smaller, more powerful and more reliable, and they are able to run many different programmes at the same time. In 1980, Microsoft Disk Operating System (MS-Dos) was born and in 1981 IBM introduced the personal computer (PC) for home and office use. Three years later Apple gave us the Macintosh computer with its icon driven interface and the 1990s gave us the Windows operating system.

As a result of the various improvements to the development of the computer, we have seen the computer being used in all areas of life. It is a very useful tool that will continue to experience new development as time passes.

**PART I: TRUE – FALSE – NO INFORMATION:**

- 1: The first generation of computers was from 1947 to 1962.
- 2: The modern computer is based on the one designed by a mathematics professor.
- 3: The first computer for commercial use was introduced to the public in 1961.
- 4: By 2035, every home will have a personal computer.
- 5: Third generation computers are more reliable, more powerful and smaller.
- 6: The second generation computers used the Windows operating system.
- 7: Charles Babbage also invented radar and the stethoscope.
- 8: Apple introduced the personal computer for home and office use in 1981.
- 9: Dr. John V. Atanasoff & Clifford Berry built the first electronic digital computer
- 10: The Windows operating system arrived in the 1990s.
- 11: Dr. John V. Atanasoff and Clifford Berry were related.
- 12: Computers will not be able to be developed further.

TRUE FALSE NI

TRUE FALSE NI