

Generations of Computers

Chapter 1: Generations of Computers · Topic 1

Key Concept

First-generation computers used vacuum tubes, were extremely large, and generated a lot of heat, making them expensive and hard to maintain.

Later generations used transistors, then integrated circuits, making computers smaller, faster, and more affordable over time.

Today's computers, in the fourth and fifth generations, use microprocessors, which pack immense computing power into tiny chips.

Understanding computer generations helps us appreciate how far technology has advanced and how computers keep improving.

Quick Revision Notes

- Computers have gone through different generations.
- First-generation computers used vacuum tubes.
- They were huge, hot and expensive.
- Later generations used transistors, then integrated circuits.
- This made computers smaller and faster.
- Modern computers use microprocessors.
- Microprocessors pack power into tiny chips.
- Technology keeps improving over generations.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research a first-generation computer.
- 2 Discuss how computers have become smaller over time.
- 3 Compare an old computer and a modern one.
- 4 Draw a timeline of computer generations.
- 5 Discuss why microprocessors are important.
- 6 Talk about a computer you use today.