

Topic 1: What is an Algorithm?

Chapter 3: Introduction to Programming Concepts · Topic 1

Key Concept

An algorithm must have clear, ordered steps, and following them correctly should lead to solving the problem or completing the task.

Algorithms exist in daily life too, like a recipe for cooking or the steps for tying shoelaces, not just in computers.

Computer programs are built from algorithms, translated into code that computers can understand and execute.

Understanding algorithms helps us think logically and break down complex problems into smaller, manageable steps.

Quick Revision Notes

- An algorithm is step-by-step instructions.
- It solves a problem or completes a task.
- Steps must be clear and ordered.
- Algorithms exist in daily life, like recipes.
- Tying shoelaces also follows an algorithm.
- Computer programs are built from algorithms.
- Algorithms are translated into code.
- They help break down complex problems.

Practice Questions

- 1 Write an algorithm for making a sandwich.
- 2 Write an algorithm for brushing your teeth.
- 3 Discuss why order matters in an algorithm.
- 4 Explain how algorithms relate to computer programs.
- 5 Create a simple flowchart of an algorithm.
- 6 Discuss a daily task that follows an algorithm.