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General Computer Awareness Notes for NABARD Grade A & B 2018

NABARD (National Bank for Rural Development) Grade A & B Prelims is scheduled to take place on **12th May 2018**. Being only one month left for the exam, it is time to gear up your exam preparation. These days every recruiter feels the necessity that their employees should know the basics of computing. Therefore, in most of these Government recruitment exams the Computer Awareness section or topic is present. So here are some useful General Computer Awareness Notes that will help to make your basic strong for various Government Exams like [NABARD](#), SSC CPO, SSC MTS, SSC CHSL, IBPS PO, IBPS RRB, RBI Grade B, etc.

General Computer Awareness - Definition

Definition of a Computer:

A computer is an electronic machine made to process, store and retrieve data and perform calculations faster and efficiently than humans. Based on the device used to attain this objective - process, store and retrieve data, computers are classified into 5 generations.

Charles Babbage is the father of computing/the computer after his invention and concept of the Analytical Engine in 1837. But **1941 marks the birth year of computer technology** with the invention of the Z3 by a German engineer Konrad Zuse.





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1940-1956: 1st Generation (Vacuum Tubes) - General Computer Awareness for Bank Exams

First generation computers used vacuum tubes as components of memory and relied on 'machine language' (the most basic programming language). A vacuum tube is a sealed glass tube containing a near-vacuum which allows the free passage of electric current.

- These computers were limited to solving one problem at a time.
- No monitors were there! Output was released in printouts! (*Monitors appeared in 3rd generation of computers!*)
- Input was based on punched cards and paper tape.
- **ENIAC** (Electronic Numeric Integrated and Calculator) was the world's 1st successful electronic computer which was developed by the two scientists namely **J. P. Eckert** and **J. W. Mauchy**.
- Other first-generation computers were **UNIVAC** (Universal Automatic Computer), **EDSAC** (Electronic Delay Storage Automatic Calculator), **EDVAC** (Electronic Discrete Variable Automatic Computer) and **LEO** (Lyons Electronic Office)

1956-1963: 2nd Generation (Transistors) - General Computer Awareness for Bank Exams

The thing that upgraded the entire generation of computers to a more advanced system was - transistor. Invented in 1947, it converts electronic signals and electrical power. Transistors made computers smaller, faster, cheaper and less heavy on electricity use.



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- The speed of a computer's performance depends on the speed of transistors.
- In other words, the faster the transistors, the faster the computer.
- The 2nd generation computers still relied on punched cards for input/printouts like 1st generation.
- The **symbolic language (assembly language)** was developed and the programmers could create instructions in words.
- High-level programming languages – early versions of COBOL* and FORTRAN** – were also developed.

*COBOL - Common Business-Oriented Language: a compiled English-like computer programming language designed for business use.

**FORTRAN - Formula Translation: a language for scientific, engineering and numerical computation.

1964-1971: 3rd Generation (Integrated Circuits) - General Computer Awareness

- With the invention of Integrated Circuits – the small circuits which can perform the functions of a larger circuit, transistors were miniaturized and put on **silicon chips**.
- The 3rd generation computers were the **first computers where users interacted using keyboards and monitors** (and interfaced with an operating system).
- This **enabled these machines to run several applications at once**.
- Functions were based on **monitor memory**.





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1972-2010: 4th Generation (Microprocessors) - General Computer Awareness for Bank Exams

The **Intel 4004 chip** was developed in 1971, which positioned all computer components (CPU, memory, input/output controls) onto one single chip!

- The Intel 4004 was developed by Ted Hoff.
- These microprocessors allowed to make computers of smaller size with speedy and efficient processing.

2010 onwards: 5th Generation (Artificial Intelligence) - General Computer Awareness



Definition of Artificial Intelligence:

Artificial Intelligence is a branch of computer science dealing with the simulation of *intelligent* behavior in computers.

In short, an AI machine can imitate the Intelligence of a human brain!

Fact: John McCarthy is known as the **father of Artificial Intelligence.**

- The intelligent machines who can work like humans, or better.
- SIRI of iPhones, automatic cars, robots serving various purposes, all of them are part of this generation.



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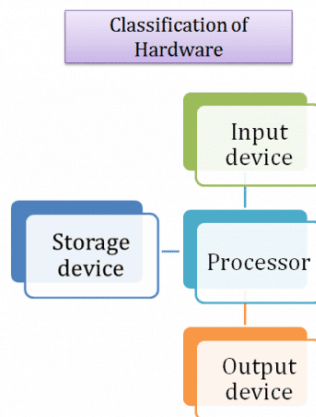
- Artificial intelligence today is properly known as narrow AI (or weak AI)
- It is designed to perform a specified task like driving or solving complex mathematical equations.

General AI or strong AI is the aim of today's world where machines can perform many functions like humans.

What are the components of a computer? - General Computer Awareness

⇒ **Hardware**

Hardware means Keyboard, Monitor, Mouse, and Printer, including the digital circuitry, etc. The following are the different **types of hardware**:



Input devices

Send data to a computer. E.g. Keyboard, mouse, scanner, trackball, touchpad, touchscreen, digital camera, web camera, microphone, etc.



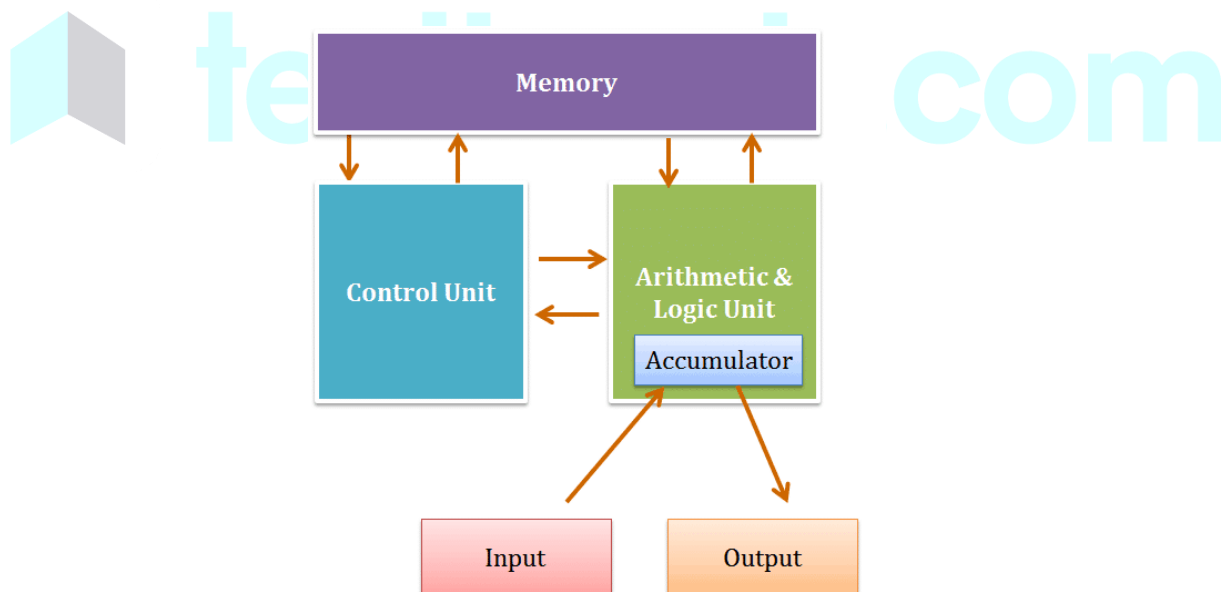
Output devices

Receive data from a computer, usually for display, projection, or physical reproduction. E.g. Monitor, printers, plotters, projector, Computer Output Microfilm (COM), speaker, head phone, sound card, video card, microfiche, etc.

Processing devices

CPU and Mother board are processing devices because they process information within the computer system.

The **Central Processing Unit** or the CPU or processor is the electronic circuitry within a computer that carries out the instructions by performing the basic arithmetic, logical, control and input/output operations specified by the instructions.



The CPU consists of:

1. Arithmetic & Logic Unit
2. Control Unit





3. Memory

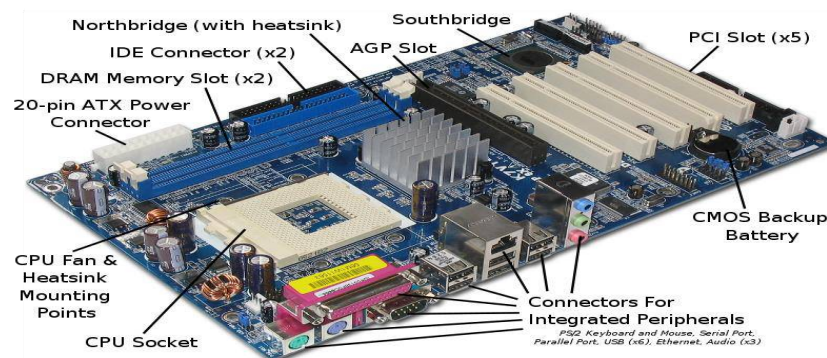
⇒ The **Arithmetic & Logic Unit (ALU)** performs simple arithmetic and logical operations.

⇒ The **Control Unit (CU)** manages various components of the computer. It reads and interprets instructions from memory and transforms them into a series of signals to activate other parts of the computer. The control unit calls upon the arithmetic logic unit to perform the necessary calculations.

⇒ **Primary storage** or **main memory** or **memory** is the area in a computer in which data is stored for quick access by the computer's processor. Random Access Memory (RAM) and cache are examples of a primary storage device.

Note that RAM is volatile i.e. whatever is stored in RAM is lost as soon as the computer is switched off. Cache is a fast-temporary storage where recently or frequently used information is stored to avoid having to reload it from a slower storage medium.

⇒ The **mother board** holds and allows communication between many of the crucial electronic components of a system, such as the CPU and memory and provides connectors for other peripherals.





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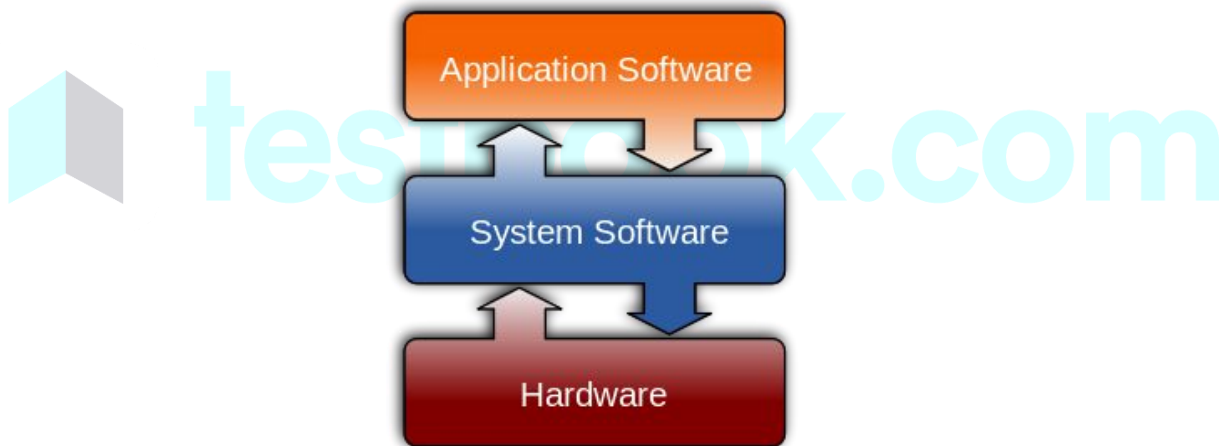
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Storage devices

1. *Primary storage* - RAM, cache.
2. *Secondary storage* - In these devices, information can be stored either temporarily or permanently and they can be external devices like a compact disc (CD) or USB storage device or can be installed inside the computer like a hard drive.

⇒ **Software**

A software is a set of instructions that directs a computer's hardware to perform a task. There are two types of software: **system software** and **application software**.



System software

System software is designed to operate the computer hardware and to provide a platform for running application software. Application software are designed to help the user to perform specific tasks like MS Word, Notepad, Google Chrome, and Calculator.



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Application Software

- Application software is used to modify text, image, graphics etc.
- There are many application Softwares, Word Processing software, Database Software, Spreadsheet software, Presentational Software, Educational Software etc to name a few.

Some Computer Programs run as a link between System software & Application Software. They are as follow: kabya

Firmware and BIOS

The operating system relies on a piece of programming called the **BIOS (Basic Input Output System)**. It is the link between the operating system software and the hardware. The BIOS is not actually a software: it's a program semi-permanently stored into one of the computer's main chips, and it is known as **firmware**. Firmware is a combination of hardware and software.



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Mobile Device Software

Modern smartphones use both system and application software.

Mobile device application software or Apps allow users to perform specified tasks like games, social networking, and messaging. They are also apps for word processing, presentation making, etc.

Mobile devices use operating systems like **Android** (Google), **iOS** (Apple), **Windows Phone** (Microsoft), **BlackBerry** (Research in Motion), and **Symbian** (Nokia).

Now that you know All About Computers for Bank & SSC Exams, you can attempt basic questions asked in the recruitment exams confidently. If you want to know more about Computers & study in detail for Computer Awareness you check this link given below!

[Set of Computer Awareness G.K. Notes for Bank Exams](#)

Check other articles on NABARD that will help you in the preparation of NABARD Grade A & B 2018 Exam.



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