

Unit 1

Q. What do you mean by computer system?

Ans: A computer may be defined as an electronic data processing device, enable of receiving inputs, storing sets of instructions for solving problems and generating output with high speed and accuracy. Computers are composed of switches , wires, motors, transistors and integrated circuits, assembled on frames. The frames forms the components such as printers, keyboards, visual display units, disk drives, magnetic tape drives and central processing units. These components are wired together into a network called a computing system, often called a computer.

The main functions of computer are as follows:

- **Input**: Input devices feed the computer with raw matter, facts or data.
- **Processing**: The storage of data, numerical comparisons, arithmetic operations are performed on data to produce desired results.
- **Output**: The processed data or information is sent to the output device connected to computer.

Q. Describe the various characteristics of computers.

Ans: The main features of a computer system are

1. **Speed**: Computers can process millions of instructions per second. Computer operations are measured in milliseconds, microseconds, nanoseconds and picoseconds.
2. **Accuracy**: Computer does the processing with a very high accuracy if the system designed is error free and no logical mistake in that system.

Unit 1

3. **Versatility**: Versatility is one of the most wonderful features of computers. They are not only capable of handling complex arithmetical problems, but can also do a number of jobs at the same time.
4. **Storage capability**: Computer systems have total and instant recall of data and an almost unlimited capacity to store these data. A typical mainframe computer system can have many billions of characters stored and available for instant recall.
5. **No intellectual power**: Computers do not possess any intellectual power. It does nothing if it is not instructed to do.