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Module A.2 Level 1 Answers

1. - UNIVAC was the world’s first commercially available computer

* delivered on June 14, 1951
* 46 UNIVAC computers were delivered between 1951 and 1958 and all of them were phased out
* John Mauchly chose the name “UNIVAC” in 1947
* Designed by J. Presper Eckert and John Mauchly
* The first UNIVAC computer came on line for the U.S Government’s Census Bureau.
* First commercial customer to purchase the UNIVAC computer was the Prudential Insurance Company
* Mainframe computers were made with vacuum tubes that would process the information
* It cost a lot of money to make them
* Many different types of computers were introduced in the 196s-70s such as the DEC PDP-1, and the NEAC 2203
* IBM introduced the 7030 computer and the 1400 series
* Card Random Access Memory (CRAM) was introduced
* MIT LINC, a personal computer was introduced
* The IBM z13 is an example of a modern mainframe computer used by governments, banks, and corporations

1. – A supercomputer is a computer that is millions of times faster than and regular desktop PC and is capable of crunching the world’s most difficult scientific problems

* The CRAY computer came out back in 1972
* Seymour Cray founded Cray Research
* First CRAY system was installed at Los Alamos National Laboratory in 1976 and cost 8.8 million dollars
* The CRAY was made in a C shape so the integrated circuits could be placed closer together
* No wire in the system was more than four feet long
* Developed an innovative refrigerator system using Freon to handle the intense heat the computer generated
* After a lot of hard work and research, IBM created a massively parallel and networking computer called Deep Blue
* This computer won a chess tournament
* Quantum computing takes advantage of the unusual ability of subatomic particles to exist in more than one state at any time. Due to the way the smallest of particles act and behave, operations can be done much more quickly and use less energy than classical computers
* A modern example of quantum computing is that Google and IBM are racing to create a trusty, useful quantum computer because they can be useful in the future
* An example of a modern quantum computer is the D Wave Quantum Computer

1. – The first IBM PC, the IBM 5100 Portable Computer was released in September 1975

* It weighed about 50 pounds
* The IBM 5100 was comparable to the IBM 1130 in performance and storage capacity but almost as small and easy to use like as an IBM 5110 and 5120 Typewriter.
* Other PCs before the IBM PC were available as early as the mid 1970s
* First, they were do-it-yourself kits and then they were sold as off-the-shelf products
* The first personal computer was The Altair
* It was not really the first PC, but it was the first one to grab real attention
* It was designed by Ed Roberts and was launched as the cover story of Popular Electronics magazine in January 1975
* The first Apple computer, the Apple I was introduced on April 11, 1976
* It was different from the PC because it had a typewriter-like keyboard and the ability to connect to a regular TV as a screen
* Modern computers are now more efficient, save space, are faster, and are gradually changing our lifestyle.