

16.317: Microprocessor Systems Design I

Fall 2012

Lecture 2: Key Questions

September 7, 2012

1. Briefly describe the role of an ISA. What information specified in the ISA is required to translate a high-level statement such as `x[i] = i * 2;` to assembly language?

2. What types of operations should a processor be able to perform?

3. What are the two major concerns when dealing with data on a microprocessor?

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6. What characteristics do we want storage media to have?