**Slide rule**: a mechanical calculating device consisting of two strips, one sliding along a central groove in the other, each strip graduated in two or more logarithmic scales of numbers, trigonometric functions, etc. It employs the same principles as logarithm tables

**Transistor**: a semiconductor device, having three or more terminals attached to electrode regions, in which current flowing between two electrodes is controlled by a voltage or current applied to one or more specified electrodes. The device is capable of amplification, etc, and has replaced the valve in most circuits since it is much smaller, more robust, and works at a much lower voltage

**Digital** **computer**: an electronic computer in which the input is discrete rather than continuous, consisting of combinations of numbers, letters, and other characters written in an appropriate programming language and represented internally in binary notation

**Vacuum** **tubes**: a sealed glass tube with electrodes and a partial vacuum or a highly rarefied gas, used to observe the effects of a discharge of electricity passed through it

**Integrated** **circuits**: a very small electronic circuit consisting of an assembly of elements made from a chip of semiconducting material, such as crystalline silicon

**First generation computer**: The period of first generation was from 1946-1959. The computers of first generation used vacuum tubes as the basic components for memory and circuitry for CPU

**Second generation of computer**: The second generation computers emerged with development of Transistors.

**Third generation of computers**: The third generation computers emerged with the development of IC (Integrated Circuits)

**Fouth generation of computer**: Computers of fourth generation used Very Large Scale Integrated (VLSI) circuits.