Programmable devices have existed for centuries..  
Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected.  
Trial-and-error/divide-and-conquer is needed: the programmer will try to remove some parts of the original test case and check if the problem still exists.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation.  
Expert programmers are familiar with a variety of well-established algorithms and their respective complexities and use this knowledge to choose algorithms that are best suited to the circumstances.  
Methods of measuring programming language popularity include: counting the number of job advertisements that mention the language, the number of books sold and courses teaching the language (this overestimates the importance of newer languages), and estimates of the number of existing lines of code written in the language (this underestimates the number of users of business languages such as COBOL).  
Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment.  
Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process.  
 Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications.  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
 Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages.  
 Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries.  
Proficient programming usually requires expertise in several different subjects, including knowledge of the application domain, details of programming languages and generic code libraries, specialized algorithms, and formal logic.  
It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability.