The first computer program is generally dated to 1843, when mathematician Ada Lovelace published an algorithm to calculate a sequence of Bernoulli numbers, intended to be carried out by Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine..  
There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks.  
In 1206, the Arab engineer Al-Jazari invented a programmable drum machine where a musical mechanical automaton could be made to play different rhythms and drum patterns, via pegs and cams.  
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.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
Later a control panel (plug board) added to his 1906 Type I Tabulator allowed it to be programmed for different jobs, and by the late 1940s, unit record equipment such as the IBM 602 and IBM 604, were programmed by control panels in a similar way, as were the first electronic computers.  
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.  
 In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form.  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment.  
  
For example, COBOL is still strong in corporate data centers often on large mainframe computers, Fortran in engineering applications, scripting languages in Web development, and C in embedded software.  
As early as the 9th century, a programmable music sequencer was invented by the Persian Banu Musa brothers, who described an automated mechanical flute player in the Book of Ingenious Devices.