Table 1.2: A traditional high-level system life cycle

Stage of life cycle	Issues addressed	Deliverables
Requirements	What are the problems, needs and wishes of clients and users? What are the objectives and scope of the proposed system? What are the major risks involved?	List of requirements that can be used as a starting point for development. List of problem areas that fall within the scope of the proposed system. Assessment of risk factors.
Analysis	What does the system look like from the perspective of the clients and users?	A set of models, each taking a different view of the system, which together give a complete picture. The models may be text, diagrams or early prototypes.
Design	How can the system be constructed, so as to satisfy the requirements?	Models from the analysis stage, refined to illustrate the underlying architecture of the system. These models take account of technological considerations and constraints arising from the implementation environment.
Implementation	How can the models produced be translated into code?	A fully tested suite of programs.
Installation	What is needed to support clients and users so that they can use the new system effectively?	User manual, technical documentation, user training. Conversion from current system to new system.

Iterative development. This approach is closely related to the spiral model and to prototyping. A skeleton version covering the complete functionality of the system is produced and then refined as development progresses.