KEY POINTS

- Microsoft Office Access 2007 is a member of Microsoft Office 2007 integrated software and it is the most popular software used worldwide for developing and managing databases.
- A database is a collection of related information stored in a computer-accessible form.
- In Access, all the information of a database is stored in tables since it is a relational database management system.
- Simple tables are generally used in Access, which are text, memo, number, auto number, date/time, currency and attachment.
- Records in a table can be sorted alphabetically or numerically sort the records in a table in ascending or descending order.
- A form is a tool that makes it easy to enter, delete, modify and view the information stored in one or more tables. Forms are usually based on a single table or query.
- Query is a tool that answers questions about data to extract specific information from tables or other queries. It will answer one or more ways. It lets you ask the data you want and in the order you want it.
- A report is a tool that summarizes and prints data from tables or queries. It is usually based on a single table or query.
- The database object gives all the information of a database and it is also known in tables and queries, which is an essential part of using a database.
- Primary key is a field or combination of fields that uniquely determine one with a table's its with. It spreads the information for a single record over many rows.
- Tabular reports display fields of records in a horizontal row with field labels at the top of the report.

EXERCISE

Fill in the blanks or choose the correct answer.

1. Which of the following is not to gather information based on one or more criteria?
   a) Table b) Query c) Form d) Report
2. Which data field type is used to provide description information?
   a) Text b) Memo c) Autonumber d) Yes/No
3. Which of the following is not a valid Access object?
   a) Sorting aids b) Supporting data c) Updating data d) Filtering data
4. The maximum number of records in a table that can use the Autonumber field is slightly more than
   a) 1 billion b) 2 billion c) 3 billion d) 4 billion
5. Which database object allows all the information of a database to be viewed and edited?
   a) Table b) Form c) Query d) Report
6. Which is the default view for a table?
   a) Design b) Datasheet c) Sql d) Pivot
7. Which query is used to add records from a table to another table?
   a) Append b) Update c) Delete d) Make Table query
8. Which query is used to change data in existing records?
   a) Select query b) Update query c) Append query d) Make Table query
9. Which type of record source is not a valid option for a form?
   a) Access b) Tables c) Queries d) External Data e) Database Tools

10. In which tab of Access Ribbon Query Design icon is located?
    a) Home b) Create c) External Data d) Database Tools

Answer:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
d	c	b	d	b	a	a	c	b	a

Fill in the blanks or choose the correct answer.

1. Which tasks can be performed using Microsoft Office Button?

Answer:
Tasks performed using Microsoft Office Button:
By using Microsoft Office Access button many tasks can be performed.
- Opening
- Saving
- New file creation
- Printing
- Previewing

2. Describe various ways of deleting records in a table.

Answer:
Deleting Records in a Table:
The following are the steps for deleting records from a table.
a. Select the record you want to delete by clicking its row selector.
b. Select the record you want to delete by clicking its row selector box, which is on the left end of the row.
c. Press the Delete key or choose Delete from the Records option on the Home tab.
d. Click the Yes button in the dialogue box with the deletion of the data you will be deleted.

Ways of deleting records:
You can delete one or more multiple records by selecting them by clicking the row selector and dragging it up or down and then pressing the Delete key.
Once you delete a record and click Yes button to confirm your action, you will not be able to restore the record. If you delete a record by mistake, you can click the Undo button on the Quick Access Toolbar. If you want to restore a deleted record, you will have to re-enter it from the scratch.
Deleting records in a table is different from deleting records in a query or form. Remember, there is never the distinction between deleting a row (record) which is all the fields of information about a single entry) and deleting a column (field) from a table. It is generally not necessary to enter a record in a form or query for all the records.
When a record in a table is deleted that is related to another table, Access might need to delete one or more records in the other table to maintain referential integrity. If you see a dialog box that warns you about this, be careful; you should determine whether you want Access to delete the additional records before you click Yes.

3. What are the advantages of using forms?

Answer:
Advantages of using forms:
The advantage of using form is presenting data in an organized and attractive manner.

4. What is meant by referential integrity?

Answer:
Referential integrity:
Referential integrity enforcement prevents you from deleting or modifying values of a primary table's record when related records depend.

4. Describe how records can be added and deleted using forms.

Answer:
Adding new record using forms:
To create a new record, click the New Record button that contains the asterisk on the Tabbed of the bottom of the form window or click the New Record button in the Records group of Home tab. The new record will be added at the end of the table and will be displayed in the form window so that you can enter information into it.
Deleting records using forms:
To delete a record, first display it in the form window and then choose Delete Record from the Records group of Home tab. The record will be removed from the data is permanently lost and it cannot be restored using the Undo command.

5. Describe Informix, Nfwfair and datasheet layouts of forms.

Answer:
Columnar layout:
Columnar layout of form aligns all fields in columns.
Nfwfair:
Nfwfair layout of form creates a form that looks like a table.
Datasheet:
Datasheet layout creates a form that looks like a datasheet.

6. What is the use of Query Design grid?

Answer:
Use of Query Design grid:
Query design grid is used
a. Specify the fields to retrieve a particular type of data.

Query Design Grid
Query Design Grid in the database module of OpenOffice.org Base is an open source application that is similar to Microsoft Access's Jet Relational database management system.
b. Differentiate between update and append query.

Answer:
Difference between update and append query:

Update Query	Append Query
Update queries add, change, and / or delete data in existing records. You usually use an update query to add records to a group of records. For example, you might want to increase by 10 percent the salary amounts for employees who have been employed for more than five years.	Append queries add records from a table or a query to another table that has the same or similar structure. You can append records to a table in the current database or to a table in another database.

c. Differentiate between columnar and tabular reports.

Answer:
Difference between columnar and tabular reports:

Columnar report	Tabular reports
Columnar report consists of a record in a separate row with a label to its left. It spreads the information for a single record over many rows.	Tabular reports displays fields of records in a horizontal row with field labels at the top of the report.

7. Currency
Currency is a special fixed format with four decimal places designed to prevent rounding errors that would affect accounting systems where the value must match to the penny.

8. Date/Time
Date/Time is a special fixed format with a special Time format. The active number pattern of the Date/Time value declared in the table and the time is represented by its decimal fraction. You control how Access displays the date and time by using the Format property.

Additional Properties of a Data Field
Each data field has a set of properties that you can use to control the behavior and appearance of a table field. You set these additional properties on the General page of the Table Design window's Field Properties pane. The properties that you can set depend on the data type you select in each field row.

Sizing Data to Save
When you Save/defined all the fields that you want to include in your table, you must save it. When you save a table, Access checks the table for the primary key field and warns you if you have not set one. If you give your table a name, but you have saved it by closing the save icon on the top left corner of the window.

9. Describe how forms are created.

Answer:
Steps for creating forms:
Following are the steps for creating the form shown in Fig 6.3 for the related tables, STUDENT and RESULT, in the database, Student Information System.
1. On the Create tab of Access ribbon, click More Forms > Form Wizard option from Wizard group. The Form Wizard dialog box appears.
2. Select the STUDENT table in the Tables/Queries drop down list in the first dialog box.

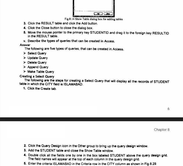


Fig 6.3 Form for related tables of Database Student Information system

3. Move all the fields of STUDENT table from the Available Fields list to the Selected Fields list box. Click the Next button.
4. In the same dialog box, select the RESULT table and move all the fields from the Available Fields list to the Selected Fields list box. Click the Next button.
5. The wizard will ask you how you want to view your data. Select by STUDENT and also select the Linked form option. Click the Next button to display the next dialog box.
6. Select the Datasheet layout for your sub-form and click the Next button.
7. Select a style that you like and click the Next button.
8. Type STUDENT RESULT as the form's name and click Finish.
9. Access will open the form in Form view.
10. Write the steps for creating relationships between tables.

Answer:
The connection between a field in one table and a field in another table must be defined either ...

Access. Such a definition is known as a relationship and each of the fields is said to be related to the other field. Once a relationship has been designated, Access can help you maintain the integrity of the data in related tables. This means that Access can help you ensure that the data in one table you create queries, forms and reports that display information from several tables at once.
Creating Relationship between STUDENT and RESULT Tables
Let us create a relationship between the two tables, the STUDENT table and the RESULT table. This means that every row in the RESULT table will be associated with a row in the STUDENT table. This requires that primary key field, STUDENT ID, in the STUDENT table exists in the related field of the existing table to represent results of various examinations. Note that the data type for STUDENTID in both the STUDENT table and the data type of RESULTS should also be the same in order to join them together values.
Steps for creating relationship:
Following are the steps for creating a relationship between any given tables below:
1. Click the Relationships button on the Database Tools tab, as shown in Fig 6.7.



Fig 6.7 Clicking the Relationships button in the Database Tools tab

2. Click the STUDENT table and click the Add button, as shown in Fig 6.8.

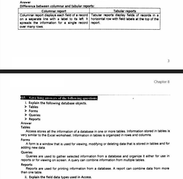


Fig 6.8 Adding the STUDENT table to the Relationships window

3. Click the RESULT table and click the Add button.
4. Close the Show button to close the dialog box.
5. Move the mouse pointer to the primary key STUDENTID and drag it to the foreign key RESULTID in the RESULT table.
6. Describe the types of queries that can be created in Access.

Answer:
The following are five types of queries, that can be created in Access.
- Select Query
- Update Query
- Delete Query
- Append Query
- Make Table Query

Creating a Select Query
Following are the steps for creating a Select Query that will display all the records of STUDENT table in which the CITY field is CHENNAI.
1. Click the Create tab.

2. Click the Query Design icon in the Other group to bring up the query design window.
3. Click the STUDENT table and click the Add button. Close the Show Table dialog box.
4. Double click the fields one by one in the box labeled STUDENT above the query design grid. The field names will appear at the top of each column in the query design grid.
5. Enter the criteria CHENNAI in the CITY column under the query design grid, as in Fig 6.29.

Fig 6.29

6. Click the Save icon above the Access ribbon to save the query. When you are prompted for the query name, type CHENNAI STUDENTS and click the OK button.
7. To run the query, click the query name in the Navigation Pane on the left side of the screen. To run the query, you can also click the Run button in the Results group of the Design tab, as shown in Fig 6.30. You can also run the query without saving it. After creating the select query, click Run in the Results group of the Design tab to run the query.

Fig 6.30 List of students living in Islamabad

Creating an Update Query
Update queries are used to change, and or delete data in existing records. You cannot use an update query to add records or delete records from a table but you use it to change existing rows or records in a table or tables.
We are going to create an update query that will update the CITY field of all the records that have the value ISLAMABAD in the CITY field to the value KARACHI. Following are the steps for creating an update query to make the above changes:
Steps to create update query:
1. Create a new select query with the criteria ISLAMABAD in the CITY column.
2. Click the Design tab in the Query Type group as shown in Fig 6.31 and Update.

Fig 6.31

3. Access will add the UPDATE TO row in the query design grid as shown in Fig 6.32. Type UAHORE in the CITY column in the Update To row.
4. Click the Save icon on the top left corner of the screen.
5. Type a name for the query and click OK.

6. Double click the query in the Navigation Pane to see the result.

Fig 6.33 Query Design grid for creating Update Query

Creating a Delete Query
Delete queries are used to delete entire records from tables along with the primary key. The process of creating a delete query is nearly identical to every similar to creating update queries. To do this, first create a select query to select the records that you want to delete and then convert it into a delete query.
Suppose in our Student Database Management System we want to delete records of all the students living in Islamabad.
The following are the steps to create this query:
1. First create a new select query with the criteria ISLAMABAD in the CITY column.
2. On the Design tab in the Query Type group as shown in Fig 6.34, click Delete. This will hide the Update To row and display the Delete row in the query design grid.

Fig 6.34 Creating a Delete query

3. To delete the selected records, click Run in the Results group of Design tab. Access will ask you whether you want to delete the records.
To delete related data, you must determine which records are on the "many" side of the relationship and delete those records first. For example, suppose that you want to delete a customer and all the records in the Orders table for that customer. Because orders are related to customers, the Orders records must be deleted first to ensure that you do not create orphaned records (orders that are not associated with any customer). Then you can delete the record in the Customers table. Finally, you can delete some data and leave other data behind. You can delete data based that you set the table fields in the datasheet table.
An easy way to create an append query is first create the select query and then convert it into an append query. Let us see how to create append query.
The following are the steps to create an append query to append records of any section of STUDENT table to a new table.
1. Open the database that contains the records that you want to append.
2. Create a new query in Design view by clicking on the Query Design window.
3. Select the table or tables that contain the records that you want to append and click Add and then Close.
4. Add the fields to the query grid that you want to append so that they appear in the Field row on the design grid.
5. Enter the criteria Like "A*" in CLASS column as shown in Fig 6.36 The criteria will find all the records in the table that begin with the letter A. Which the first A Wilds and "A*" will the last letter is unknown for any section of class XII.

Fig 6.36 Query Design grid showing append criteria

6. Click Append in the Query Type group of Design tab shown in Fig 6.35.

Fig 6.37 Append dialog box showing table name

7. The Append dialog box shown in Fig 6.37 will appear. Click the table name in which you want to append the records. Choose to append records to another database and enter the file name and then click the OK button.



Fig 6.38 Append dialog box specifying record

Creating a Make Table Query
Make table queries create new records from a table and copies them into a new table. The new table can be in the database that you have open or you can create it in another database. To create a make table query, first create a select query that selects the records you want to make table query. Choose a location for the new table and then run the query to create the new table.
The following are the steps to copy all the records of students having the data ISLAMABAD in the CITY column to a new table.
1. First create a select query that has the criteria ISLAMABAD in the CITY column in the query design grid.
2. Select Make in the Query Type group of Design tab. The Make Table dialog box will appear as shown in Fig 6.37.



Fig 6.39 Make Table dialog box

3. If you want to place the new table in the current database, select Current Database otherwise, act for another database and enter the location and file name of the other database.
4. Click OK.
5. Click Run in the Results group of Design tab.

LAB ACTIVITIES

Following lab activities are to be carried out during the practical periods.
Students should know how to launch Access and create and save a database.

Answer:
Practical Work
1) Creation of following database objects should be demonstrated on the computer:
- Table
- Query
- Query
- Report
- Report

Theoretical Work
2) Following operations should be performed on the computer.
- Adding, deleting and modifying of data in records.
- Filtering records
- Sorting records
- Searching records

Answer:
Practical Work
3) Creating and editing relationships between tables.

Answer:
Theoretical Work
4) Formatting and printing forms and reports.

Answer:
Practical Work

Q.1 Select the correct choice from the following questions.

1. There are _____ types of relational database management systems:
   A. Two B. Three C. Four D. Five
2. It is one of the popular database software by Microsoft:
   A. Microsoft Access B. Microsoft Word
   C. Microsoft PowerPoint D. Microsoft Excel
3. It stores all the data of a database:
   A. Report B. Table C. Form D. Query
4. It is a window that displays data for viewing, entering and editing information:
   A. Report B. Table C. Form D. Query
5. It is used to gather information based on one or more criteria:
   A. Report B. Table C. Form D. Query
6. It is used for printing information from database:
   A. Report B. Table C. Form D. Query
7. Microsoft Access is a:
   A. RDBMS B. OODBMS
   C. ORDBMS D. Network Database Model
8. Access assigns this data type as the default data type:
   A. Number B. AutoNumber C. Text D. Memo
9. A Text field can contain _____ characters:
   A. 255 B. 200 C. 355 D. 155
10. Access assigns a default length of _____ characters:
    A. 40 B. 50 C. 60 D. 70
11. Memo fields ordinarily contain as many as _____ characters:
    A. 65,555 B. 75,535 C. 65,535 D. 85,535
12. You use them to provide descriptive comments:
    A. Number B. AutoNumber C. Text D. Memo
13. It is a numeric (Long Integer) value that Access automatically fills in for each new record you add to a table:
    A. Number B. AutoNumber C. Text D. Memo
14. Access can increment the AutoNumber field by _____ for each new record:
    A. 1 B. 2 C. 3 D. 4
15. There are _____ basic types of forms depending on the layout:
    A. Three B. Four C. Five D. Six
16. While working in forms, to move back to the previous control press:
    A. Shift+Tab B. Ctrl+Tab C. Alt+Tab D. F3+Tab
17. This query is used to change, add or delete data in existing records:
    A. Select Query B. Update Query C. Delete Query D. Append Query
18. This query is used to delete entire records from tables along with the primary key:
    A. Select Query B. Update Query C. Delete Query D. Append Query
19. This query is used to add records from a more source table to a destination table:
    A. Select Query B. Update Query C. Delete Query D. Append Query

Answers:

1.	Three	**2.**	Microsoft Access
3.	Table	**4.**	Form
5.	Query	**6.**	Report
7.	RDBMS	**8.**	Text
9.	255	**10.**	50
11.	65,535	**12.**	Memo
13.	AutoNumber	**14.**	1

15.	Shift+Tab	**16.**	Update Query
17.	Update Query	**18.**	Delete Query
19.	Append Query		

Q.2 Give short answers of the following questions.

Q1: Why databases are developed?
Ans. Databases are developed to provide facilities to store, manage and retrieve information in an organized way.

Q2: Why relational databases are successful in organizations?
Ans. Relational databases have been very successful in organizations for managing databases. In relational databases, data is stored in tables. The relations between the tables make it a relational database.

Q3: Which things are included in the creation database objects?
Ans. Database development includes the creation of database objects (tables, forms, queries, reports, etc.), keys and relationships between the tables

Q4: Name the Types of Relational Database Management Systems (RDBMS).
Ans. There are three types of relational database management systems (RDBMS). These are:

- ⇨ Microsoft Access
- ⇨ OpenOffice Base
- ⇨ SQL Server

Q5: Write down the use of OpenOffice Base.
Ans. OpenOffice Base allows users to create interactive databases where they can manage data related to payroll, inventory, assets, budgets, customers, sales orders and invoices, etc..

Q6: Give a brief introduction of SQL Server.
Ans. SQL Server is a product of Microsoft Office. SQL Server is a relational database management system that offers a variety of tools for database development, maintenance and administration.

Q7: Write down the function and use of SQL Server.
Ans. Main function of SQL Server is to store and retrieve data as requested by other software applications. It is also used to create and manage Web-based databases.

Q8: State the function of Microsoft Office Button.
Ans. The Microsoft Office Button performs tasks such as saving, opening, new file creation and printing, etc..

Q9: Write down the steps for launching Access 2007.
Ans. Following steps are used for launching Access 2007:

1. Click the Start button on the Windows taskbar.
2. Click All Programs on the Start menu.
3. Click Microsoft Office on the All Programs submenu.
4. Click Microsoft Office Access 2007 to launch Access 2007 and display the Getting Started with Microsoft Office Access screen.

Q10: What are the objects which are used in Access?
Ans. The following are the main objects used in Access:

- ⇨ ables
- ⇨ Forms
- ⇨ Queries
- ⇨ Reports

Q11: What is a form?
Ans. A form is a window that is used for viewing, modifying or deleting data that is stored in tables and for adding new data.

Q12: Why queries are used?
Ans. Queries are used to gather selected information from a database and organize it either for use in reports or for viewing on screen. A query can combine information from multiple tables.

ABBREVIATIONS

ATM	Automated Teller Machine	**BIOS**	Basic Input Output System
BIPS	Billion Instructions Per Second	**CD**	Compact Disk
CISC	Complex Instruction Set Computer	**CRT**	Cathode Ray Tube
DBA	Database Administrator	**DBMS**	Database Management System
DIMM	Dual In-line Memory Module	**DRAM**	Dynamic Random Access Memory
DSL	Digital Subscriber Line	**DVD**	Digital Video Disk
EEPROM	Electrically Erasable Programmable Read Only Memory	**EPROM**	Erasable Programmable Read Only Memory
GB	Gigabyte	**GPS**	Global Positioning System
IBM	International Business Machines	**IC**	Integrated Circuit
IP	Internet Protocol	**ISDN**	Integrated Services Digital Network
ISO	International Standards Organization	**KB**	Kilobyte
LAN	Local Area Network	**LCD**	Liquid Crystal Display
LSI	Large Scale Integration	**MAN**	Metropolitan Area Network
MB	Megabyte	**MIPS**	Million Instructions Per Second
MSI	Medium Scale Integration	**NIC**	Network Interface Card
OSI	Open System Interconnection	**PDA**	Personal Digital Assistant
PROM	Programmable Read Only Memory	**PSTN**	Public Switched Telephone Network
RAM	Random Access Memory	**RDRMS**	Relational Database Management System
RISC	Reduced Instruction Set Computer	**ROM**	Read Only Memory
SATA	Serial Advanced Technology Attachment	**SDRAM**	Synchronous Dynamic Random Access Memory
SIMM	Single In-line Memory Module	**SSI**	Small Scale Integration
TB	Terabyte	**TCP**	Transmission Control Protocol
TIPS	Trillion Instructions Per Second	**USB**	Universal Serial Bus
VLSI	Very Large Scale Integration	**VPN**	Virtual Private network
WAN	Wide Area Network	**WWW**	World Wide Web

GLOSSARY

Application software	A set of programs designed to perform a specific task, such as typing a letter, preparing payroll, playing music or creating animated display.
Assembler	A system software that translates assembly language programs into machine language for execution by the computer.
Asynchronous Transmission	A type of transmission in which the time interval between the characters being transmitted varies.
Attribute	A property or characteristics of an entity.
Bus Topology	A type of topology in which the transmission medium is usually a single cable to which all the devices are attached.
Cache Memory	Small amount of high-speed semiconductor memory which exists inside the microprocessor or on the motherboard of a computer.
Circuit Switched Network	A mode of operation of a network in which communication path is first established between the source and the destination and used exclusively for the duration of the call or transaction.
Client	A computer on the network that accesses resources that are shared by other computers.
Client/Server Network	A computer network in which each computer on the network acts as either a server or a client.
Communication Media	Communication lines used to transmit data between computers, such as telephone line, fiber optics or coaxial cable.
Compiler	A system software that translates entire program written in a high-level language into machine language program for execution by the computer.
Computer Casing	A box or an enclosure that contains most of the components of a computer except the input/output devices.
Computer Network	An interconnection between two or more computers so that they can communicate with each other.
Computer Program	A sequence of instructions which are stored in main memory of a computer and specify which operations are to occur to solve a problem.
Control Unit	A unit of CPU that directs and coordinates the operations of entire computer system.
Data File	A collection of records.
Data Inconsistency	The same items of data held in many different files having different values.
Data Redundancy	The same data duplicated in many different data files.
Database	A collection of related data in data files or tables.
Database Management System (DMBS)	A general-purpose software that allows users to create and maintain a database.
Database Administrator	A person incharge of a group who is responsible for supervising both the database and the use of DBMS
Database	A collection of many different data files linked in such a way that information can be retrieved from several files simultaneously.
Device Driver	A computer program whose purpose is to control the operation of a hardware device attached to computer.

Digital Computer	A machine that can solve problems by carrying out instructions given to it in a computer programming language.
Direct Access Memory	A type of memory in which the actual physical location of a memory word has no effect on how long it takes to read from or write into that location.
Entity	A thing of interest to an organization about which data is to be held.
Entity-Relationship (E-R) Diagram	A diagrammatic way of representing the relationship between entities in a database.
Firmware	An intermediate form between hardware and software which consists of software embedded in electronic devices during their manufacture.
Form	A window that displays a collection of controls, such as labels, text boxes, check boxes and lists for viewing, entering and editing the information in database fields.
Freeware	Software distributed free of cost like shareware but it is usually full version of the software for an unlimited period of time.
Full-duplex Mode	A type of information exchange method between two communicating devices, whereas, information can be exchanged in both directions simultaneously.
Gateway	A device that is used to link very different kinds of networks, such as a network of IBM mainframe computers and a network of PCs.
Half-duplex Mode	A type of information exchange method between two communicating devices, whereas, information can be exchanged in both directions alternatively.
Hardcopy	Output generated by an output device, such as printer on paper that is permanent record of information and cannot be changed.
Hardware	Physical components of computer, such as monitor, keyboard, hard disk, printer, along with the circuitry connecting them.
Hierarchical Database Model	A database model in which data is organized into a tree-like structure.
Hyper Text Markup Language(HTML)	The major language of the Internet's World Wide Web to write web pages.
IC Chip	A silicon chip that consists of miniature logic circuits etched on it.
Interpreter	A system software that translates high-level language program into machine language but it translates one instruction at a time and executes it before translating the next instruction.
IP Address	A unique address made up of 32 bits that identifies a host on Internet.
ISO	International Standards Organization based in Geneva that develops standards for various devices.
Local Area Network (LAN)	A network that consists within a limited geographical area such as a building or a university campus.
Memory Address	A number that points at a location of a word in memory.
Metropolitan Area Network(MAN)	A backbone network of fiber optic cables that could span hundreds of square miles within a city.
Microprocessor	A single VLSI chip that directs and coordinates the operation of all the other part of computer.
Modulation	The process of transmitting a sequence of 1s and 0s by varying amplitude or frequency of a sine wave.

Motherboard	A circuit board that connects all the components of computer system through ports, cables or expansion slots.
Network Database Model	A hierarchical database model in which some of the data elements can have more than one owner data element
Object-Oriented Database Model	A database model that stores objects rather than data, such as integers, real numbers and strings. Objects are used in object-oriented programming languages, such as C++ and Java.
Open Source Software	Computer software that is available in the form of source code that allows users to study, change and improve it.
Operating System	A system software that manages the hardware and software resources of a computer system, such as CPU, storage and all the input devices.
OSI	Open System Interconnection is a standard model of a data communication system developed by ISO to facilitate communication system in which equipment from different vendors can communicate with each other.
Packet Switched Network	A mode of operation in which each message transmitted through the network is first divided into a number of smaller units known as packets. Each packet contains addressing information and the packets are reassembled at the destination.
Peer-to-Peer Network	A network in which every computer is capable of playing the role of client, server or both at the same time.
Plotter	An output device used to produce hardcopy of graphs, maps, engineering drawings and machine components.
Port	Connectors at the back of motherboard that provide interface for communication between the microprocessor and input/output devices.
Primary Key	A unique field of an entity in a database.
Protocol	A language or set of rules that nodes agree to use to communicate over a network.
Query	An object used to gather selected information from a database and organize it either for use in reports or for viewing on screen.
Record	All the information about one person or item.
Referential Integrity	A feature in DBMS that prevents from deleting or modifying values of a primary table's record on which related records depend.
Register	Small storage unit whose function is to temporarily store binary information and pass it on to the other parts of the processor or main memory during the execution of program instructions.
Relational Database Model	A database model in which data is held in tables and the tables are linked by means of common fields.
Relationship	A link or association between entities.
Resolution	The sharpness or quality of picture or text displayed on monitor or printed on printer.
Ring Topology	A type of topology in which each computer is connected to its nearest neighbor until all the computers are connected in the form of a ring.
Router	A device that reads network addressing information in the packet and may add more information to get it through the network.
Secondary Key	If a database table needs to be searched on a field other than the primary key, it is known as a secondary key.

Sequential Access Memory	A type of memory in which the access time is not constant but varies depending on the address location.
Server	A computer on the network that shares resources for others to use.
Shareware	A proprietary software that is given to people free of charge in a compact disk along with periodicals or magazines or it can be downloaded from a website.
Simplex Mode	A type of information exchange method between two communicating devices whereas information can be passed only in one direction.
Softcopy	Output that appears on a monitor or is saved on some medium, such as hard disk, CD or flash drive.
Software	See definition of computer program.
Software License	A contract between the producer and the user of computer software that specifies the perimeters of permission granted by the owner to the user.
Star Topology	A type of topology in which there is a central computer that performs all the switching functions.
Switch	A device that links cable segments of a LAN, links two LANs or links the cable of LAN to leased lines, such as telephone lines.
Synchronous Transmission	A type of transmission in which the time intervai between characters being transmitted is constant.
System Bus	A group of parallel strands of wires for transmitting binary information in the computers.
System Software	Collection of operative programs whose purpose is to make the use of computer easy and effective.
System Unit	A computer casing with all the components, such as motherboard, CPU, main memory and hard disk installed inside it.
Topology	A map of layout of nodes and connections in a network.
Utility Software	Software that provides facilities to carry out tasks which are beyond the capabilities of the supervisor of operating system.
Virtual Private Network (VPN)	A network that provides remote access to individuals or offices to their organization's networks by using public telecommunication infrastructure such as Internet.
Wide Area Network (WAN)	A network that spans a large physical area, connecting computers across cities, countries and continents.
Wireless Network	A network that uses electromagnetic waves to provide facilities to computer users to exchange information without additional wiring network.