

# FOUNDATIONS OF COMPUTING P/T

## QUESTIONS - TUTORIAL 3

### THE TURING MACHINE

The modified extract below is taken from:

<http://www.turing.org.uk/turing/scrapbook/computer.html>

It is from Alan's Turing's homepage, written by his biographer, Andrew Hodges

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1. (from page 1) What did the word 'computer' originally mean?
2. (from page 1) Hodges talks about the 'automatic computer'. Briefly, how does the notion of being automatic fit in with our discussion from the last two weeks?
3. (from page 1) What is the difference between an analogue and a digital computer?
4. (from page 1) Do you agree with Hodge's opinion that Babbage's Analytical Engine is not a design for a computer? Give your reasons.
5. (from page two) What is a near-computer or a pre-computer according to Hodges?
6. Go to <http://www.ams.org/featurecolumn/archive/turing.html> and investigate the notion of a Turing machine. Do you think this is a fair representation of the logical heart of a computer?

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