



Lesson 2 Quick Reference Guide

History of Artificial Intelligence | APEP Academy

AI History at a Glance

Period / Date	Milestone	Why it matters
1950	Alan Turing publishes "Computing Machinery and Intelligence".	Foundational framing of machine intelligence and the imitation game.
1956	Dartmouth summer research project.	A landmark event in the formal development of AI as a research field.
1950s–1960s	Early symbolic AI.	Knowledge and reasoning represented through symbols, logic and rules.
1970s–1980s	Expert systems.	Showed how encoded specialist knowledge could support narrow decisions.
1970s–1990s	AI winters.	Funding and enthusiasm declined when expectations outpaced results.
1990s–2000s	Statistical machine learning expands.	Learning from data becomes increasingly practical.
2012	AlexNet achieves a major ImageNet result.	Helped accelerate the deep-learning era in computer vision.
2017	Transformer architecture introduced.	Became foundational to many modern language and multimodal systems.
2022	ChatGPT publicly released.	Helped make conversational generative AI mainstream.

Core Concepts

Symbolic AI	AI based heavily on explicit representations, rules and logical procedures.
Machine Learning	Methods that allow systems to learn patterns from data rather than relying only on manually written rules.
Deep Learning	Machine learning using multi-layer neural networks that can learn complex representations.
AI Winter	A period when AI funding, confidence or public interest falls after expectations exceed results.

Generative AI	AI systems capable of generating new content such as text, images, audio, video or code.
Transformer	A neural-network architecture introduced in 2017 that became central to many modern language models.

Business Lessons From AI History

- Do not confuse hype with evidence of business value.
- Choose AI based on the problem, workflow and users—not novelty alone.
- Start with a small, measurable use case and evaluate the result.
- Keep human oversight for quality, privacy, safety and consequential decisions.
- Expect tools and capabilities to change; build adaptable skills and workflows.

Prompt-Engineering Reminder

Context + Task + Audience + Constraints + Output Format + Quality Criteria

Example: “Explain [topic] to [audience]. Use [format]. Include [examples]. Keep it within [constraint]. Separate verified facts from interpretation.”

Quick Revision Questions

- What was Turing trying to investigate?
- Why is Dartmouth 1956 significant?
- How did machine learning change the AI approach?
- Why did AI winters occur?
- Why are Transformers important?
- What is one practical lesson you can apply to an AI project?