Generations of Programming Languages

• First Generation Languages (1GL- low level language)
• Second Generation Language (2GL- low level language)
• Third Generation Language- (3GL- high level language)
• Fourth Generation Language- (4GL- high level language)
• Fifth Generation Language- (5GL- high level language)
Characteristics of 1GL

• Fastest to execute because it is already in the language that the computer can understand.
• Difficult to decipher (requires the aid of a reference manual to decipher the meaning of each code)
• Easy to make mistakes in the sequence of 1’s and 0’s; replacing a 1 for a 0 can result in the wrong command/instruction being executed
• Time consuming/tedious to write
• Machine dependant
• Programming becomes more difficult as the complexity of the program increases.
Characteristics of 2GL

• Easier to write than machine language

• As with machine language, assembly language is machine dependant
Characteristics of 3GL

• It uses English words