

Alan Turing

Life and Legacy Timeline 1912-2021

23 June 1912 – Alan Turing is born in London, England.

1926 – He begins attending Sherborne School, where he excels in science and mathematics.

1931 – Turing starts studying mathematics at King's College, Cambridge.

1936 – He publishes On Computable Numbers, introducing the Turing machine, a key idea in computer science.

1938 – Turing earns his PhD from Princeton University, focusing on mathematical logic and cryptography.

1939 – World War II begins, and Turing joins Bletchley Park, Britain's secret codebreaking centre.

1940 – He develops the Bombe machine, which cracks Germany's Enigma code, helping the Allies intercept secret messages.

1942 – His codebreaking work contributes to major victories, including the Battle of the Atlantic.

1945 – World War II ends, and Turing is awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his wartime contributions.

1946 – He works on designs for the Automatic Computing Engine (ACE), one of the first computers.

1948 – Turing joins the University of Manchester, continuing his research into artificial intelligence and computing.

1950 – He publishes *Computing Machinery and Intelligence*, proposing the Turing Test to determine whether a machine can think like a human.

1951 – His work expands into mathematical biology, studying how animal patterns (like stripes and spots) form.

1952 – Turing is arrested for being gay, which was illegal in Britain at the time. He is forced to undergo chemical castration.

7 June 1954 – Alan Turing dies from cyanide poisoning, widely believed to be suicide.

1970s–1980s – As computer science grows, Turing’s work is recognized as foundational to modern computing.

2009 – The British government apologizes for his treatment after a public campaign.

2013 – Turing receives a posthumous pardon from Queen Elizabeth II for his conviction.

2017 – The UK passes Turing’s Law; pardoning thousands of men convicted under historical anti-LGBTQ+ laws.

2021 – Turing’s face appears on the £50 banknote, honouring his contributions to computing and wartime codebreaking.