

# Oracle Certified Associate Java SE 8 Programmer Certification

## Brad Bowman

Link: [https://education.oracle.com/oracle-certified-associate-java-se-8-programmer/trackp\\_333](https://education.oracle.com/oracle-certified-associate-java-se-8-programmer/trackp_333)

### 1. About the Certification:

- This certification helps to build a foundational understanding of Java and serves as the first of two steps in demonstrating the necessary skills to become a professional Java developer. The content of the exam includes Java basics, data types, operators and decision constructs, arrays, loops, methods and encapsulation, inheritance, exceptions, and selected classes from Java API.

### 2. Learning the Content:

- I purchased a learning course from *WhizLabs*, which has 42 videos, 8 full 2-hour practice exams, and 635 total questions. I went through all the videos (which are divided by topic), taking notes throughout my viewing. To increase my understanding of each topic, I go through additional practice questions and add any helpful information to my notes.

### 3. Career Goals:

- Java is one of the most used coding languages, used in applications in laptops, data centers, game consoles, mobile devices, and more. Java is said to be ranked the third most popular language among recruiters, and therefore this certification will allow me to be well-equipped with a foundational understanding of Java for future career paths.

### 4. Learning Objectives:

Learning objective	Supporting Activity	Objective Achieved
Manage personal resources under actual industry or research time and budget constraints.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Plan what resources to use to study and practice.</li><li>Study and practice material in timely, effective manner.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Partially met. Materials and plan were effective, but staying on schedule was a challenge.</li></ul>
Gain skills and knowledge to help prepare for post-graduation career.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Learning material through videos and practice questions</li><li>Reviewing material through notes and practice questions/exams</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Met. Java is a useful language in the CS industry which will aid my future career developing applications.</li></ul>
To become more familiar with Java, a language commonly used in mobile applications, and in the CS industry in general.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Studying and practicing material</li><li>Practicing by writing code and answering questions based on the exam</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Met. By practicing and reviewing the material, I have a much better understanding of Java which will be useful in the industry.</li></ul>
To become more confident in my skills as a programmer so I can be more comfortable with code-based questions encountered in the interview process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Answering a substantial amount of practice and exam questions.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Met. All questions used to study require a high level of focus and attention to detail, which is a useful skill for interviews.</li></ul>

### 5. Pros, Cons, and What I learned:

- Pros: feels applicable to future career path(s), good practice questions for future interviews, lessons in time management and best study practices
- Cons: exams are expensive, underestimation of amount of time required
- What I learned: I learned how to manage my own time independently, in addition to learning how to independently learn new content through practice

### 6. Things I wish I had Known:

- I wish I had known how much of a difference purchasing study materials makes earlier in my learning process. While costly, purchasing a virtual course saves a lot of time that would have been spent essentially building my own curriculum (good practice questions in particular are critical to learning).