

STUDY GUIDE 2: Computing Basics

AP Computer Science - WHS Mulvaney

Name

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Resources

<u>Lecture Slides</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1B: Basic Computing Concepts- 1C: String Literals and Comments- 1D: Classes, Methods, Identifiers	<u>Textbook Section</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1.1 Basic Computing Concepts
PracticeIt (Building Java Programs <u>4th Edition</u> , Chapter 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- (1B) Self Check 1.10; Exercise 1.4- (1C) Exercise 1.9- (1D) Self Check 1.6, 1.17	

Lecture Notes: Basic Computing Concepts

1. Come up with your own algorithm for something you do in everyday life.
2. Do programmers concern themselves more with software or hardware?

Vocabulary

Algorithm	A step by step procedure to complete a task
Computer Science	The study of computers
Hardware	The stuff the computer runs on
Software	The stuff the computer runs

Lecture Notes: String Literals and Program Structure

3. What is the advantage of using helper methods instead of asking the the main method to contain every statement?

- Breaks down complex tasks
- allows the code to be reused

4. Writing a computer program is a lot like writing an essay. In this analogy, what three essay component correlate to a class, method, or statement.

- class - Introduction
- method - Body
- Statement - Conclusion

5. Why are comments so vital when they don't affect execution?

- Helps others [^] better understand & edit your code
(& yourself)

String	a sequence of characters
literal	a fixed value
variable	a named storage location

Lecture Notes: Classes, Methods, Identifiers

class	• Blueprint • defines a set of properties & methods the class can use
main method	• Entry point to the program
helper method	performs specific tasks
statement	Single instruction

Task 1: Identifying Valid Identifiers

Attempt each of the variable names below. Circle the ones that compile and the ones that don't, then answer the questions below.

A, ab, xyz, take6, b4, 2much, ha_ha, _silly, bang!, whack/, bright*, b()()m

6. Can identifiers start with letters? Uppercase? Lowercase?

Yes

Yes

Yes

7. Can identifiers contain numbers?

Yes

8. Can identifiers begin with numbers?

no

9. Which non-number, non-letter characters are allowed in identifiers?

" _ "

identifier	the name given to a variable that allows it to be called upon
comments	girly... they are comments