JavaScript form validation notes

Script element

To link JavaScript scripts to a HTML document, you need to use the **<script>** element included in the document head with a **src** attribute containing the script's file path.

Another important attribute is **defer** which ensures the script only runs once the entire DOM has loaded. Without it, you may find that scripts won't work correctly because they are trying to find DOM elements that don't exist at runtime.

Accessing form data

We can get access to form data using JavaScript using the forms API. First, give your form a descriptive ID attribute (in this case, **surveyForm**). The form can then be accessed like so:

```
const formData = document.forms.surveyForm;
```

To get access to values of specific form fields, you can do so like:

```
const fullName = formData.elements.fullName.value;
```

Be careful not to omit the **.value** at the end. For checkboxes or radios, you will need to change **.value** for **.checked**.

Preventing default event behaviour

Sometimes we want to have more control over an event's behaviour. In the form validation example, we want to prevent the form from being submitted if validation fails.

We can do this by invoking **event.preventDefault()** when invalid data is encountered, preventing the **submit** event from sending the form data to the server.