

course: OOP (Object-Oriented Programming)

artifact: Mega Worksheet + Study Guide + Rubric

coverage:

- Stacks & Queues (ADT mindset refresher)
- Overloading vs Overriding
- Constructors & Initialization Lists
- struct vs class
- Operator Overloading
- friend
- Composition (intro, not yet the full assignment)

due:

day: Monday the 16th

time: 11:00 AM

in_class_support:

day: Wednesday

note: Questions encouraged. Panic discouraged.

tone: Academically serious, emotionally sarcastic

philosophy: |

OOP is not about inheritance.

It is about designing types that are hard to misuse.

OOP Worksheet & Study Guide

Making Your Own Types Feel Like the Language Meant Them to Exist

Due: 16 Feb 2026 by class time.

| If this feels long, good.

| If it feels unfinished, also good.

| If you feel like there's "always more," congratulations — that feeling is the curriculum.

This document serves **three purposes**:

1. Homework
2. Study guide
3. A mild personality test for how you think about software design

Read the questions carefully. Many are intentionally phrased to trip up *rote memorization*.

Part 0 — A Necessary Reality Check

Most people think:

| **OOP = inheritance**

Math = long division

Inheritance exists.

It is sometimes useful.

It is wildly overused.

This worksheet is about **building abstract data types (ADTs)** that behave like they belong in the language — not about summoning class hierarchies like Pokémon.

Part 1 — Review, But With Consequences

1 Stacks & Queues (ADT Reality Check)

Answer clearly and concisely.

1. Compare **array-based** vs **list-based** implementations of stacks and queues:

- memory layout *arrays are faster to access, but have limited size*
- resizing behavior
- cache friendliness *lists vary in size, are easy to insert/remove from but have more overhead*
(Yes, cache friendliness matters. No, you may not ignore it.)

2. Why is `std::vector` a natural fit for a **stack**, but awkward for a **queue**?

vectors can only push/pop the back of the vector, queue requiring pop, at the front of the queue

3. Define the **invariant** for:

- a stack data is inserted and removed from the "top" of the stack
- a queue data is removed from the "front" and added to the "back"

If your invariant takes more than one sentence, it's not an invariant — it's a confession.

Part 2 — Overloading vs Overriding

(Same Word Root, Completely Different Beasts)

2 Conceptual Distinction

Fill out the table:

| Feature | Overloading | Overriding |
|----------------------|-------------|------------|
| Resolved at | ? compile | ? runtime |
| Requires inheritance | ? no | ? yes |
| Same function name | ? yes | ? yes |

| Feature | Overloading | Overriding |
|-----------------------|-------------|------------|
| Polymorphism involved | ? YES | ? YES |

Then answer:

1. Why is **overloading** a compile-time convenience? *Because they are different methods with the same name*
2. Why is **overriding** a runtime contract? *Because what is running is based on the object*
3. Why do beginners confuse the two? *The names are very similar, and so are their uses*
4. Why is that confusion dangerous? *Because it can introduce difficult to find bugs*

Hint: The compiler is not your therapist. It will not guess your intent.

Part 3 — Constructors & Initialization Lists

(Where C++ Stops Holding Your Hand)

3 Initialization Lists or Else

(3) `Widget(int x, std::string y) : x(id), y(name)`

Given:

```
class Widget {
private:
    const int id;
    std::string name;

public:
    Widget(int id, std::string name);
};
```

Answer:

1. Why **must** this constructor use an initialization list? *Because id is a const*
 2. What happens if you try to assign `id` inside the constructor body? *The program has an error message*
 3. Write the correct constructor.
 4. Name **one other situation** where initialization lists are required (research-lite). *Initialization lists are required when a data member is a const data type*
- Saying "because the compiler told me to" is not an explanation.

4 Copy Constructor vs Assignment Operator

Research + reasoning required.

1. When is the **copy constructor** invoked? *When the object is created*
2. When is the **assignment operator** invoked? *When a value is assigned to an existing object*

"They both copy stuff" earns partial credit and a sigh.

Part 4 — struct vs class

(Same Machine Code, Different Intent)

5 Design Signal, Not Syntax Sugar

Answer:

1. What is the **only** language-level difference between struct and class? *Structs are private by default, and classes are public*
2. Why does C++ even allow both? *Because they have different intents*
3. When does choosing struct communicate intent better than class? *Because being private by default means the data should be protected*
4. Why does intent matter more than syntax in large systems?
Because intent is easier to interpret

Part 5 — Operator Overloading

(Where ADTs Start Feeling Real)

6 Rules You Don't Get to Ignore

Research and explain:

1. Why can't C++ overload:
 - *This would break basic functionality of accessing members*
 - *:: This is run at compile time*
 - *sizeof Not a runtime function*
2. Why should `operator+` not mutate the left-hand operand? *To ensure reliability, and predictability.*
3. Why is `operator<<` almost never a member function?
Because it must be a non-member to use stream objects

If your answer is "because that's how everyone does it," dig deeper.

7 The "other / rhs" Trap (Yes, It's Intentional)

Given:

```
Point operator+(const Point& rhs) const;
```

Answer clearly:

3. How can this function access `rhs.x` if `x` is private?
4. What does this tell you about **class-level vs object-level access**?

This question exists specifically to break incorrect mental models.

Part 6 — `friend`: Controlled Violation of Privacy

8 Friend or Design Smell?

Answer:

1. What does the `friend` keyword actually do? *Allows a class to access another classes private parts*
2. Why is `operator<<` commonly declared as a friend? *So it can access components from other classes*
3. Why is excessive use of `friend` a red flag? *Because some classes could just be public*
4. Give **one legitimate use case** and **one illegitimate one**.
*legit: 1 class needs sensitive data from a
bad: data should be public*

"Because it wouldn't compile otherwise" is not a justification — it's a symptom.

Part 7 — Core Programming Task

Design a Type, Not a School Assignment

9 Build a Native-Feeling `Point2D`

You are designing a **type**, not checking boxes.

Required Features

Your `Point2D` class must:

- Use **private data members** ✓
- Include at least **three constructors**: ✓
 - default
 - parameterized
 - copy constructor
- Use **initialization lists**
- Overload:
 - `+` ✓
 - `-` ✓
 - `==`
 - `!=` (without duplicating logic) ✓
 - `<<`
- Demonstrate **const correctness**
- Avoid public getters unless you can justify them ✓

```
Point2D a(3, 4);
Point2D b(1, 2);

Point2D c = a + b;
Point2D d = a - b;

if (c == Point2D(4, 6)) {
    std::cout << "Math still works.\n";
}

std::cout << a << std::endl;
```

10 Design Constraints (Read Carefully)

You may not:

- expose raw data publicly
- use inheritance
- overload operators with nonsense semantics

You should:

- minimize the public interface
- make misuse difficult
- prefer clarity over cleverness

Part 8 — Composition (The Quiet MVP of OOP)

11 Composition in Plain English

Composition means assembling behavior from parts, not becoming those parts.

Or more bluntly:

"Has-a" beats "is-a" most of the time.

12 Inheritance vs Composition (No Dragons Yet)

✗ Inheritance First Instinct

```
class ColoredPoint : public Point2D {
    Color color;
};
```

Problems:

- Locked into `Point2D` forever
- Inherits everything, wanted or not
- Hard to evolve safely

✓ Composition Approach

```
class ColoredPoint {  
private:  
    Point2D position;  
    Color color;  
};
```

Benefits:

- Clear ownership
- Modular behavior
- Fewer unintended side effects

1 3 The Big Takeaway

Inheritance expresses identity.

Composition expresses capability.

Most real systems care more about **capability**.

Part 9 — Reflection (Yes, This Is Graded)

Answer honestly:

1. Does your `Point2D` feel like a built-in type? *No*
2. What design choice most contributed to that feeling? *no other types take input, or same way*
3. Which OOP concept currently feels overhyped? *Inheritance*
4. Which one feels underrated? *encapsulation*
5. What part of this worksheet made you uncomfortable — and why? *some of the ques. were very difficult*

If nothing made you uncomfortable, you probably didn't push hard enough.

✓ Grading Rubric (100 Points)

Conceptual Understanding 25 pts