# Minimum coding standards for submitted work in Java

This document lays out some simple standards for Java coding work. Coursework marks will be lost for not following these guidelines.

## A. Syntax

1.  Class names are Capitalised and Upper-Camel-Cased for compound names.

```
public class EmailApplication {
}
```

2.  Object, variable and method names are lower case, and lower-Camel-Cased if names are compound words.

```
EmailApplication myEmail = new EmailApplication();
int numberOfEmails = 12;
```

3.  Classes, variables and methods to have meaningful names

4.  Use public/private annotation for all classes, state variables and methods

5.  Use a consistent amount of indentation (2 or 4 space) after every open { bracket and revert back on close }

6.  Opening brackets { either all on same line or all on next line. Closing brackets } on next line.

```
public class EmailApplication {

  private int  numberOfEmails = 0;

  public EmailApplication( int number ) {
    numberOfEmails = number;
  }
}
```

*Examples of 3.-6. Having the opening brace { on a separate line is also allowed.*

7.  Documentation/comments – as a minimum each class should have a description of its purpose and the items of state that define it. Each method should have a comment describing its function.

## B. Class structure

1.  A class should begin with a list of state variables that are assigned default values.
2.  This is followed by a constructor that assigns given values to every item of state.
3.  Further methods of the class follow this.
4.  Generally group getter/setter methods for clarity.