Common Errors & Comments

**Content**

**Self-documenting code**

Commenting your code is a very important step when programming. Adding descriptive comments to your code can help other programmers who might be collaborating on your project, or who might be updating your code at a later date.

Comments will also come in very handy when you have to debug and fix errors in your program. With comments you can quickly see the function of each block of code and this will speed up the debugging process. Writing comments also clarifies your intention: some programmers realize errors in their code as they comment!

*On a separate sheet, or in Eclipse if you are submitting electronically, answer the questions below. Don’t forget to include your name on your answer sheet, or if submitting via email, use the naming conventions as described by your instructor.*

1) Write a program called Pokeball that displays the following output:

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@@@@@@@@@@@@

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

|||||[““““]|||||

|||||[....]|||||

OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO

OOOOOOOOOOOOOO

OOOOOOOOOOOO

OOOOOOOOOO

(Make sure to check your code for common errors before moving on to question 2.)

2) Place a comment somewhere in your code that reads “This Pokeball graphic can be used in the opening sequence of my Pokemon game, or any time the player needs to catch a wild Pokemon.”

3) What is the output of the following program?

public class Organization {

public static void main(String[] args) {

System.out.println(“If you want to”);

System.out.println(“leave a note for future programmers”);

System.out.println(“in with your code”);

System.out.print(“place two slashes, like this // “);

System.out.println(“in front of each line of your comment”);

System.out.print(“Another alternative is to “);

System.out.println(“enclose your comments with”);

System.out.println(“/\*, but not \\\*!”);

}

}

4) What file name should you give the program above? How did you know to choose that file name?

5) Find and correct 6 errors in the following program:

public SubwayAnnoucement {

public static void mian (String[] args) {

System.out.Println(“Stand clear of”)

System.out.println(“the closing doors, please.);

}

6) List the steps of what you did to check and correct the program above. (What things did you check for?)

**Content**

**Debugging tools**

Debugging will play a very important part in the work you do as a computer programmer. As much as we like to think we can write code correctly the first time, this very rarely happens, even for experienced programmers. This is why debugging becomes a very important skill!

The Eclipse IDE provides a number of tools to help you debug your programs. You will also learn about debugging skills and techniques such as outputting the contents of your variables to the screen to ensure appropriate values.

All these tools and skills, when used together, will help you debug quicker and more effectively.