

Minimum coding standards for submitted work in Java

This document lays out some simple standards for Java coding work.
This will make reading (and marking) work easier.

Coursework marks will be lost for not following these simple 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;  
    }  
}
```

see above for examples of 3.-6.

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.