

1. Non-composite Data Types

13 Data Representation

13.1 User-defined data types

Candidates should be able to:

Notes and guidance

Show understanding of why user-defined types are necessary

Define and use non-composite types

Including enumerated, pointer

Define and use composite data types

Including set, record and class / object

Choose and design an appropriate user-defined data type for a given problem

Purpose of user-defined data types:

- To create new data type (from existing data types)
- To allow data types not available in a programming language to be constructed // To extend the flexibility of programming language

Why user-defined data types are **necessary**:

- No suitable data type is provided by the language used
- The programmer needs to specify a new data type
- ... that meets the **requirement** of the application

State what is meant by user-defined data types:

- Derived from one or more existing data types
 - Used to extend the built-in data types
 - Creates data types specific to applications
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Non-composite Data Types

Define non-composite data types

- A single data type that does not involve a reference to another type / usually built in to a programming language

Give examples of non-composite data type:

- Integer
 - Stores as a whole number
- Boolean
 - Stores true or false
- Real/double/float/decimal
 - Stores decimal numbers
- String
 - Stores zero or more characters
- Char
 - Stores a single character
- Pointer
 - Whole number used to reference a memory location

Enumerated

This is a data type used to store constant values. It is a list of possible values.

A user-defined non-composite data type with a list of possible values is called an enumerated data type. The enumerated type should be declared as follows:

```
TYPE <identifier> = (value1, value2, value3, ...)
```

Example – declaration of enumerated type

This enumerated type holds data about seasons of the year.

```
TYPE Season = (Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter)
```

```
TYPE <identifier> = (value1, value2, value3, ... )
```

For example, a data type for months of the year could be defined as:

Type names usually begin with T to aid the programmer

```
TYPE Tmonth = (January, February, March,  
April, May, June, July, August, September,  
October, November, December)
```

The values are not strings so are not enclosed in quotation marks

Then the variables `thisMonth` and `nextMonth` of type `Tmonth` could be defined as:

nextMonth is now set to February

```
DECLARE thisMonth : Tmonth  
DECLARE nextMonth : Tmonth  
thisMonth ← January  
nextMonth ← thisMonth + 1
```

```
TYPE SchoolDay = (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,  
Friday)
```

```
TYPE WeekEnd = (Saturday, Sunday)
```

⚠ : Enumerated 里面不用加引号 ' ' 或双引号 ""

⚠ : The values defined in an enumerated data type are ordinal. This mean that enumerated data types have an implied order or values.

Pointer 🙌

A user-defined non-composite data type referencing a memory location is called a pointer

- ☐ Define: `TYPE <pointer> = ^<Typename>`
- ☐ Declaration: `DECLARE pointerVar : <pointer>`
- ☐ Reference: `pointerVar <- ^variable`
- ☐ Dereference: `pointerVar^`

The pointer should be defined as follows:

```
TYPE <pointer> = ^<Typename>
//For example:
TYPE IntPtr = ^INTEGER
DECLARE number: INTEGER
DECLARE numberLocation: IntPtr
numberLocation <- ^number //reference
```

Combining enumerated data type and pointer data type:

```
TYPE season = (Spring,Summer,Autumn,Winter)
TYPE seasonPointer = ^Season
DECLARE currentSeason: Season
currentSeason <- Spring
DECLARE mySeason: seasonPointer
mySeason <- ^currentSeason //reference
OUTPUT mySeason^ //dereference: output will be Spring
```