

SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

COS20007 OBJECT ORIENTED PROGRAMMING

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## 3.2P - The Stack and Heap

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## Task 3.2P Answer Sheet

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1. In 2.2P, how many Counter objects were created?  
2
2. Variables declared without the “new” keyword are different to the objects created when we call “new”. Referring to the main method in task 2.2P, what is the relationship between the variables initialised with and without the “new” keyword?  
Variables initialised with a new keyword creates a new object, which is allocated a new memory in the heap. Variables initiating without a new keyword uses an already existing object in the heap. Meanwhile, variables that do not point to an object store that data in the stack, that data is uniquely referred to that variable.
3. In 2.2P, explain why resetting the counter in myCounters[2] also changed the value of the counter in myCounters[0].  
Because both counters are referring to the same object.
4. The key difference between memory on the heap and memory on the stack is that the heap holds “dynamically allocated memory”. What does this mean? In your answer, focus on the size and lifetime of the allocations.  
The memory allocated to any object in the heap can constantly change its size according to the code because the size and lifetime is determined at run-time. The memory is also allocated when a function that requires it is called, and deallocated when the function exits. Memory in the stack has fixed size allocation and limited lifetime which are determined at compile-time.
5. Are objects allocated on the heap or the stack? What about local variables?  
Objects are in the heap, local variables are in the stack and if the local variable is an identifier for an object, then it simply references the object in the heap.
6. What does the new() method do when called for a particular class, and what does it return?  
It creates a new object of that particular class, and returns a reference to that new object.
7. Assuming the class Counter exists in my project, if I wrote the code “Counter myCounter;” (note there is no “=”), what value would myCounter have? Why?  
Null, because the variable has only been initialised with the data type ‘Counter’ without assigning a value yet.

8. Based on the code you wrote in task 2.2P, draw a diagram showing the locations of the variables and objects in main and their relationships to one another.

