

## 2017 AP® COMPUTER SCIENCE A FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

3. This question involves analyzing and modifying a string. The following `Phrase` class maintains a phrase in an instance variable and has methods that access and make changes to the phrase. You will write two methods of the `Phrase` class.

```
public class Phrase
{
    private String currentPhrase;

    /** Constructs a new Phrase object. */
    public Phrase(String p)
    {   currentPhrase = p;   }

    /** Returns the index of the nth occurrence of str in the current phrase;
     *  returns -1 if the nth occurrence does not exist.
     *  Precondition: str.length() > 0 and n > 0
     *  Postcondition: the current phrase is not modified.
     */
    public int findNthOccurrence(String str, int n)
    {   /* implementation not shown */   }

    /** Modifies the current phrase by replacing the nth occurrence of str with repl.
     *  If the nth occurrence does not exist, the current phrase is unchanged.
     *  Precondition: str.length() > 0 and n > 0
     */
    public void replaceNthOccurrence(String str, int n, String repl)
    {   /* to be implemented in part (a) */   }

    /** Returns the index of the last occurrence of str in the current phrase;
     *  returns -1 if str is not found.
     *  Precondition: str.length() > 0
     *  Postcondition: the current phrase is not modified.
     */
    public int findLastOccurrence(String str)
    {   /* to be implemented in part (b) */   }

    /** Returns a string containing the current phrase. */
    public String toString()
    {   return currentPhrase;   }
}
```

Part (a) begins on page 12.

## 2017 AP® COMPUTER SCIENCE A FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- (a) Write the `Phrase` method `replaceNthOccurrence`, which will replace the `n`th occurrence of the string `str` with the string `repl`. If the `n`th occurrence does not exist, `currentPhrase` remains unchanged.

Several examples of the behavior of the method `replaceNthOccurrence` are shown below.

Code segments

Output produced

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Phrase phrase1 = new Phrase("A cat ate late.");<br>phrase1.replaceNthOccurrence("at", 1, "rane");<br>System.out.println(phrase1); | A crane ate late. |
|---|-------------------|

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Phrase phrase2 = new Phrase("A cat ate late.");<br>phrase2.replaceNthOccurrence("at", 6, "xx");<br>System.out.println(phrase2); | A cat ate late. |
|---|-----------------|

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Phrase phrase3 = new Phrase("A cat ate late.");<br>phrase3.replaceNthOccurrence("bat", 2, "xx");<br>System.out.println(phrase3); | A cat ate late. |
|--|-----------------|

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Phrase phrase4 = new Phrase("aaaa");<br>phrase4.replaceNthOccurrence("aa", 1, "xx");<br>System.out.println(phrase4); | xxaa |
|--|------|

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Phrase phrase5 = new Phrase("aaaa");<br>phrase5.replaceNthOccurrence("aa", 2, "bbb");<br>System.out.println(phrase5); | abbba |
|---|-------|

Class information for this question

```
public class Phrase  
  
private String currentPhrase  
public Phrase(String p)  
public int findNthOccurrence(String str, int n)  
public void replaceNthOccurrence(String str, int n, String repl)  
public int findLastOccurrence(String str)  
public String toString()
```

## **2017 AP® COMPUTER SCIENCE A FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

The `Phrase` class includes the method `findNthOccurrence`, which returns the `n`th occurrence of a given string. You must use `findNthOccurrence` appropriately to receive full credit.

Complete method `replaceNthOccurrence` below.

```
/** Modifies the current phrase by replacing the nth occurrence of str with repl.  
 * If the nth occurrence does not exist, the current phrase is unchanged.  
 * Precondition: str.length() > 0 and n > 0  
 */  
public void replaceNthOccurrence(String str, int n, String repl)
```

Part (b) begins on page 14.

# **AP® COMPUTER SCIENCE A 2017 SCORING GUIDELINES**

## **Question 3: PhraseEditor**

| <b>Part (a)</b> | <code>replaceNthOccurrence</code> | <b>5 points</b> |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|

**Intent:** Replace the *n*th occurrence of a given string with a given replacement

- +1 Calls `findNthOccurrence` to find the index of the *n*th occurrence
- +1 Preserves `currentPhrase` only if *n*th occurrence does not exist
- +1 Identifies components of `currentPhrase` to retain (uses `substring` to extract before/after)
- +1 Creates replacement string using identified components and `rep1`
- +1 Assigns replacement string to instance variable (`currentPhrase`)

| <b>Part (b)</b> | <code>findLastOccurrence</code> | <b>4 points</b> |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|

**Intent:** Return the index of the last occurrence of a given string

- +1 Calls `findNthOccurrence` to find the index of the *n*th occurrence
- +1 Increments (or decrements) the value used as *n* when finding *n*th occurrence
- +1 Returns the index of the last occurrence, if it exists
- +1 Returns -1 only when no occurrences exist

| <b>Question-Specific Penalties</b> |
|------------------------------------|
|------------------------------------|

- 1 (q) Uses `currentPhrase.findNthOccurrence`
- 2 (r) Confused identifier instead of `currentPhrase`

**AP® COMPUTER SCIENCE A**  
**2017 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 3: Scoring Notes**

| <b>Part (a) replaceNthOccurrence</b> |   |   | <b>5 points</b>  |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Points                               | Rubric Criteria   | Responses earn the point if they ...  | Responses will not earn the point if they ...  |
| +1                                   | Calls <code>findNthOccurrence</code> to find the index of the <code>nth</code> occurrence                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>do not use the result of calling <code>findNthOccurrence</code></li> </ul>   |  |
| +1                                   | Preserves <code>currentPhrase</code> only if <code>nth</code> occurrence does not exist                             |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fail to use a conditional</li> </ul>  |
| +1                                   | Identifies components of <code>currentPhrase</code> to retain (uses <code>substring</code> to extract before/after) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify start and end of substring to be replaced</li> </ul>  |  |
| +1                                   | Creates replacement string using identified components and <code>repl</code>  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>create a replacement string that is out of order</li> </ul>   |
| +1                                   | Assigns replacement string to instance variable ( <code>currentPhrase</code> )                                      |   |  |
| <b>Part (b) findLastOccurrence</b>   |   |   | <b>4 points</b>  |
| Points                               | Rubric Criteria   | Responses earn the point if they ...  | Responses will not earn the point if they ...  |
| +1                                   | Calls <code>findNthOccurrence</code> to find the index of the <code>nth</code> occurrence                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>do not use the result of calling <code>findNthOccurrence</code></li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>return <code>currentPhrase.lastIndexOf(str);</code></li> <li>call <code>findNthOccurrence</code> with an integer parameter of 0</li> </ul>                          |
| +1                                   | Increments (or decrements) the value used as <code>n</code> when finding <code>nth</code> occurrence                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>return <code>currentPhrase.lastIndexOf(str);</code></li> <li>advance through <code>currentPhrase</code> searching for <code>nth</code> occurrence of <code>str</code></li> </ul> |  |
| +1                                   | Returns the index of the last occurrence, if it exists  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>return <code>currentPhrase.lastIndexOf(str);</code></li> <li>compute the correct value to be returned in all cases, but no return statement exists for any case</li> </ul>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shorten string being searched</li> <li>always return in first iteration of the loop</li> </ul>  |
| +1                                   | Returns -1 only when no occurrences exist   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>return <code>currentPhrase.lastIndexOf(str);</code></li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>compute the correct value to be returned in all cases, but no return statement exists for any case</li> <li>always return in first iteration of the loop</li> </ul> |