Installation and Programming Environment:

1. Can this language be installed on any operating system (Windows, Mac, Unix/Linux)? If not, what are its limitations?

JavaScript files can be run locally on all operating systems, but you have to install a virtual machine of some sort. For example, in order to run simple JavaScript functions in the iOS terminal, I installed node.js.

2. Give instructions for how to install the language

To Install node.js, you can go to https://nodejs.org/en/download/ and download the version that works for your operating system. There are versions available for iOS, Linux, and Windows. Then just follow the installation instructions. Once it's installed, you can run JavaScript files in the terminal by navigating to the file and then entering \$ node filename.

3. Where do you write programs in this language (as in: in a text editor, a special editor just for that language, something else?)

Currently I'm writing JavaScript files in Atom, a free, lightweight Integrated Development Environment (IDE) that's compatible with web technologies. It's user friendly and it doesn't take a huge time commitment to set up, so I thought it was a good option to get started. I've also used Chrome Developer to write and test simple JavaScript functions in my browser. There are also heavier IDEs available such as WebStorm and Visual Studios; these IDEs have a lot of great features, but take more time and research to set up properly.

4. How do you run programs that you write?

JavaScript can be run in terminal with node.js, in Chrome Developer, or in an IDE. For simple files, terminal and Chrome Developer are great options, but if you're developing an Application an IDE is very helpful because it will support things like syntax highlighting, code completion, debugging, etc.

5. Is there a lot of boiler-plate code that you need to write a program (like in Java)? Or can you just start writing (like in Python and Perl)?

To run JavaScript you have to download some sort of application, so there will always be starter code that needs to be on your machine before anything will run. The only exception to this is if you use your browser, but you would still have to save your files locally.

6. How do you write comments in your language?

Commenting in JavaScript is very similar to Java.

//this is a single-line comment

/*this is a multiline comment*/