enigmania

Naming conventions

Because submissions are compiled and run automatically, it's important that you follow the naming conventions. If you don't, and the automatic marking system can't work out how to compile and run your program, it will be flagged as a "fail".

Class names

If your program is written in Java, the class name should be *Prog<n>*, where *<n>* should be replaced by the question identifier. If the question is a multi-part one, any letter in the identifier should be in lower case. That is, the only upper-case character in the class name should be the *P* of *Prog*. Valid names include *Prog1*, *Prog1a* and *Prog5c*. Invalid names include *prog1a*, *PROG1A* and *Prog1A*.

Input and output files

All programs read from an input file and write to an output file. The input file is always called *Prog<n>.dat*, and the output file is always called *Prog<n>.out*, where *<n>* should be replaced by the question identifier. The capitalisation should be as for the class name (see above), since the auto-marker may be running on a computer system (e.g. Unix) whose filesystem is case-sensitive.

Output to the console

Although you may wish to write material to the console (command window) for debugging purposes, you should not allow anything to be written to the console in the version of your program you submit to the judges. If your program writes anything to the console, it will be classed as a "fail", as it will be deemed to produce output that was not in the specification.

Whitespace and blank lines

You must be careful to read the question and ensure your program outputs the correct number of space/tab/newline characters at all times in its output. If, for instance, the question asks for two blank lines between items and your program only leaves one, it will be classed as a "fail". Similarly, if the question asks (say) for a certain number of space characters between items on a line, or for a column of numbers to be right-aligned with the rightmost character in a particular column, you must conform to these requirements or the automatic marker will class the solution as a "fail".