

## **PART A: CONCEPTUAL QUESTIONS**

### **1. Definition of a Class and an Object**

In object-oriented programming(OOP), a class is a blueprint or template for creating objects. It defines the structure and behaviour that the objects created from it will have. An object is an instance of a class. It resembles a concrete, genuine object that was made with the class serving as its model. If a class is the template, the object is the actual item created from that template. The object holds actual data and can use the methods defined by the class.

### **2. Constructors and Destructors**

A constructor is a method(special) in a class that is automatically called when an object is created. Its job is to initialize the object's attributes and set up any necessary state. Its role in a class is to set up objects when it's created. And also, it's often used to assign default or initial values to attributes.

A destructor is also a special method that is automatically called when an object is destroyed. Cleaning up and releasing resources(such as files, memory, and network connections) are among its uses. It also prevents memory leaks or other issues caused by "dangling" resources. And, helps manage the end of an object's lifecycle.

### **3. Object Lifecycle**

Instantiation (Creation)

The lifecycle of an object begins with instantiation, which is the process of creating an object from a class. The class acts as a blueprint, and the constructor method of that class is called when an object is instantiated. This is accomplished by the `__init__()` method in languages such as Python; constructors in C++ are named after the class. Setting up default or provided values for attributes and allocating any necessary resources, like memory, file handles, or network connections, are the responsibilities of the constructor. it establishes the framework for how the object will behave while it is in use. Without proper initialization in the constructor, an object may be left in an inconsistent or invalid state, which can lead to runtime errors or logical bugs.

Initialization:

The construction initializes attributes and sets up any resources the object needs like opening files and also allocating memory

Usage(Active Lifetime):

The obj performs its intended tasks- methods are called, data is modified or accessed.

Destruction(cleanup):

They get destroyed (either by manually or by the garbage collector) when it is no longer needed. Resources are released via a destructor or cleaning function (such as `dispose()` in some languages or `_del_()` IN Python) (eg, shutting files, deallocating memory).

## **PART C: Reflection & Short Answer**

1. Constructors make sure that an object starts its life cycle in a valid state by initializing its member variables and setting up any necessary resources. This helps prevent undefined behavior and errors that could arise from using uninitialized data.

2. Because they give away resources like memory, file handles, or network connections that were gained during the object's lifespan, destructors are essential, particularly in languages like c++ that lack garbage collection. These resources might leak and eventually affect system performance<sup>4</sup> in the absence of destructors.
3. If a class does not properly manage its resources, it can lead to memory leaks, resource exhaustion, or undefined behavior. For example, failing to release memory or close files can crash the program or cause security vulnerabilities.