

Live Q&A 2 Transcript

I never made a transcript for the first Q&A, sorry :(

Preliminaries

<https://kings.padlet.org/kolling/ppa> – Questions and Discussion

For future reference: all lectures will **start 5 minutes after** the hour and **end 5 minutes before** the hour.

These live lectures are not for teaching – the idea is to use this time for **interactive talking**.

Classes start **today**, under **small group tutorials** in your timetable. There is a lab sheet. Make sure you know your class number and your supervisor's name.

Engagement tasks are 10 small tasks over the rest of the term. You should **engage with all of them** within the week. You get full marks if 8 out of 10 are completed. The leeway is for if you are ill.

Questions & Answers

Should we have finished all week 2 material before the SGT?

You should have looked at the worksheet, but you will start working at the worksheet material in the class. Typically you won't have enough time in the class to complete, so you must complete it after.

How many attempts do we get in the engagement task?

Depends on the task. Quizzes, you can attempt as many times as you want. This week, it's just two short statements. These are 1 or 0 marks. We only mark if you have done it; quality is not assessed.

What's the difference between the terms "header" and "signature"?

These terms are used interchangeably in casual talk. However, they have slight differences.

- An example header:

```
public int add(int number){}
```

- An example signature:

```
add(int number)
```

It is possible to use the same name for more than one thing. This is called **method overloading**. However, the methods have to be different in inputs. In other words, **the signature must be different**.

Do we need cameras for the SGT?

It would be nice, but it would not be necessary. If you don't have one, or for some reason don't want to, you would not be forced to.

Why start with Java?

The verbosity of Java is helpful for understanding implementation.

When is the first coursework?

It will start in week 4.

Can an object have multiple classes?

An object in Java is always of one specific class. No, it can't be an instance of multiple classes. However, if it was a subclass, you can say it's part of two classes – the subclass and superclass.

Where do we get the link for our SGTs?

It should be in your timetable. The timetable is updating daily.

What material will be covered in the SGT?

It's the same as the live lectures. We will cover the material from last week.

When will we start coding interesting projects?

We will start this week. They will get more and more interesting as you go on.

How do two constructors in one class work?

The way it works is the same way it works as method overloading.

If a variable is private, can it be used in multiple classes?

Well yes, but actually no. You want to encapsulate variables into classes so they can not be accessed elsewhere. You use methods to access these variables.

We *could* make it public, but we don't. As soon as you make a variable public, you lose control of that variable. That is why you never make any variable public.

Where is the engagement task?

It's on KEATS. It's not difficult to see.

Is it better to use object or instance?

It doesn't really matter. They mean the same thing. I use this term interchangeably. If I want to emphasise the relationship between the object and the class, I often use instance.

What is the class number for the SGT?

The class number is given in your timetable entry. If you're not sure, ask your class supervisor.

When will be learning Java syntax specifically?

We already have.

Do we have to do all of our coursework in Java?

For this module, yes.

I noticed we haven't referred to the creation of an object as instantiation. Why haven't we?

It's another term we can use, but we don't have to.

Why is "int" considered a data type? I thought it was considered a return type.

It is both. The return type is a data type. In a method header, it is either void or a data type, where void indicates it returns nothing, and where the data type indicates what data type it returns.

Our timetables don't contain links and our outlook timetable doesn't update.

If the timetable doesn't contain a link, then that is an error in the timetable. You will have to email ug-informatics@kcl.ac.uk

Are all class attributes private?

Any detail that is stored about an object is called an attribute. Every programming language invented their own terminology, even if it's for the same thing. In C++, you call them attributes. In Java, you call them fields.

Nowadays, you call them attributes regardless of language. In Java, you call them fields, and you always make them private.

I haven't received the link for the SGT

Straight after the session, I will talk to Jeffery to try to send out emails. I can't solve that right now.

Can we do more hands-on programming to get a better idea?

Good suggestion. To get a better understanding, as this question suggests, it is good to do more hands-on programming. What you should be doing is looking at the textbook. You'll get recommendations which exercises are useful in the tutorial.

I missed entering the number for the engagement task. What should I do?

For future submissions, please enter that number. For now, we'll try to fix it for you.

What version of Java are we using?

You can find it in the *About BlueJ* dialogue.

I have an SGT later but no TA assigned

Don't worry. A TA will be assigned.

Is there a way to force Padlet notes to remain in place?

I was wondering the same. I will find out later.

Write a note saying whether or not you like using Padlet as a platform for communication.

Can a comment be included as a part of the header?

It can! The header of the method should tell you everything you need to know to call the header. The Java code usually isn't enough, hence why the comment is included as a part of the header.

Can we contact you if we would like to ask for advice on personal projects?

Right now, if it's not connected to PPA, I won't have enough time.

What's the different between public and private in the source code?

I've talked about it in the video. Elements that are private are only visible within the same class. If they are public, other classes can see and access them.

Where can we contact the leader of the SGT?

They will introduce themselves in the session.

Why can I not find the engagement task in the week 2 session?

It will always be in the reflection session. It shouldn't be hard to see.