Exercise – Review of code using check list

You are asked to review some code found an open source portal. It is not important what the code actually does.

1) Choose one of the code components and perform a review using the check list found below. Write a short report about your findings.

Check list for code (excerpt)

Formalities
1) Is it clear what the name of the component is?
2) Is it clear who is responsible for the code?
3) Is the history of the code clear?
4) Does the code print include identification and page numbers?
5) Is it possible to see if the code print is complete?

Simplicity
1) Is the lay-out simple and consistent?
2) Is it easy to see what are comments and what is code?
3) Are instructions at the same level indented in the same way?
4) Are parentheses used to augment the readability?
5) Are single-instructions written an one line?
6) Are more instructions written on the same line?
7) Are variable names relevant in the context?
8) Are variable names reused through the code?

Structure
1) Are variables declared in a logical context regarding their use?
2) Are variables used before they are declared?
3) Is the flow in the code generally top-down?
4) Are unconditioned jumps used (for example GOTO)?
5) Is the nesting level (for example loops inside each other) less than 4?
6) Are 'exits' used in a consistent way?
7) Is the code broken down into smaller modules/methods/functions?
8) Is each module only used for one thing, and it is clear which?

Self-documentation
1) Is the code commented?
2) Do the comments generally ease understanding?
3) Are variables and their use explained?
4) Is the purpose of the module explained?
5) Is the language in the comments consistent or is there a mixture of styles?
6) Are irrelevant comments found (for example old comments which should have been removed?