

course: OOP (Object-Oriented Programming)
artifact: Mega Worksheet + Study Guide + Rubric
coverage:

- Stacks & Queues (ADT mindset refresher)
- Overloading vs Overriding
- Constructors & Initialization Lists
- struct vs class
- Operator Overloading
- friend
- Composition (intro, not yet the full assignment)

due:

day: Monday the 16th

time: 11:00 AM

in_class_support:

day: Wednesday

note: Questions encouraged. Panic discouraged.

tone: Academically serious, emotionally sarcastic

philosophy: |

OOP is not about inheritance.

It is about designing types that are hard to misuse.

OOP Worksheet & Study Guide

Making Your Own Types Feel Like the Language Meant Them to Exist

Due: 16 Feb 2026 by class time.

If this feels long, good.

If it feels unfinished, also good.

If you feel like there's "always more," congratulations — that feeling is the curriculum.

This document serves **three purposes**:

1. Homework
2. Study guide
3. A mild personality test for how you think about software design

Read the questions carefully. Many are intentionally phrased to trip up *rote memorization*.

Part 0 — A Necessary Reality Check

Most people think:

OOP = inheritance

That's like saying:

Math = long division

Inheritance exists.

It is sometimes useful.

It is wildly overused.

This worksheet is about **building abstract data types (ADTs)** that behave like they belong in the language — not about summoning class hierarchies like Pokémon.

Part 1 — Review, But With Consequences

1 Stacks & Queues (ADT Reality Check)

Answer **clearly and concisely**.

1. Compare **array-based** vs **list-based** implementations of stacks and queues:

- memory layout
 - resizing behavior
 - cache friendliness
- (Yes, cache friendliness matters. No, you may not ignore it.)

2. Why is `std::vector` a natural fit for a **stack**, but awkward for a **queue**?

3. Define the **invariant** for:

- a stack
- a queue

If your invariant takes more than one sentence, it's not an invariant — it's a confession.

Part 2 — Overloading vs Overriding

(Same Word Root, Completely Different Beasts)

2 Conceptual Distinction

Fill out the table:

Feature	Overloading	Overriding
Resolved at	?	?
Requires inheritance	?	?
Same function name	?	?
Same parameter list	?	?

Feature	Overloading	Overriding
Polymorphism involved	?	?

Then answer:

1. Why is **overloading** a *compile-time convenience*?
2. Why is **overriding** a *runtime contract*?
3. Why do beginners confuse the two?
4. Why is that confusion dangerous?

Hint: The compiler is not your therapist. It will not guess your intent.

Part 3 – Constructors & Initialization Lists

(Where C++ Stops Holding Your Hand)

3 Initialization Lists or Else

Given:

```
class Widget {
private:
    const int id;
    std::string name;

public:
    Widget(int id, std::string name);
};
```

Answer:

1. Why **must** this constructor use an initialization list?
2. What happens if you try to assign **id** inside the constructor body?
3. Write the correct constructor.
4. Name **one other situation** where initialization lists are required (research-lite).

Saying “because the compiler told me to” is not an explanation.

4 Copy Constructor vs Assignment Operator

Research + reasoning required.

1. When is the **copy constructor** invoked?
2. When is the **assignment operator** invoked?
3. Why do both exist?
4. What subtle bugs appear if you confuse them?

"They both copy stuff" earns partial credit and a sigh.

Part 4 – struct vs class

(Same Machine Code, Different Intent)

5 Design Signal, Not Syntax Sugar

Answer:

1. What is the **only** language-level difference between **struct** and **class**?
 2. Why does C++ even allow both?
 3. When does choosing **struct** communicate intent *better* than **class**?
 4. Why does intent matter more than syntax in large systems?
-

Part 5 – Operator Overloading

(Where ADTs Start Feeling Real)

6 Rules You Don't Get to Ignore

Research and explain:

1. Why can't C++ overload:
 - `.`
 - `::`
 - `sizeof`
2. Why should **operator+** **not** mutate the left-hand operand?
3. Why is **operator<<** almost never a member function?

If your answer is "because that's how everyone does it," dig deeper.

7 The "other / rhs" Trap (Yes, It's Intentional)

Given:

```
Point operator+(const Point& rhs) const;
```

Answer clearly:

1. Which object owns this function?
2. What does **rhs** represent?

3. How can this function access `rhs.x` if `x` is private?
4. What does this tell you about **class-level vs object-level access**?

This question exists specifically to break incorrect mental models.

Part 6 – `friend`: Controlled Violation of Privacy

8 Friend or Design Smell?

Answer:

1. What does the `friend` keyword actually do?
2. Why is `operator<<` commonly declared as a friend?
3. Why is excessive use of `friend` a red flag?
4. Give **one legitimate use case** and **one illegitimate one**.

"Because it wouldn't compile otherwise" is not a justification — it's a symptom.

Part 7 – Core Programming Task

Design a Type, Not a School Assignment

9 Build a Native-Feeling `Point2D`

You are designing a **type**, not checking boxes.

Required Features

Your `Point2D` class must:

- Use **private data members**
- Include at least **three constructors**:
 - default
 - parameterized
 - copy constructor
- Use **initialization lists**
- Overload:
 - `+`
 - `-`
 - `==`
 - `!=` (without duplicating logic)
 - `<<`
- Demonstrate **const correctness**
- Avoid public getters unless you can justify them

Required Usage (This Must Compile)

```

Point2D a(3, 4);
Point2D b(1, 2);

Point2D c = a + b;
Point2D d = a - b;

if (c == Point2D(4, 6)) {
    std::cout << "Math still works.\n";
}

std::cout << a << std::endl;

```

1 0 Design Constraints (Read Carefully)

You **may not**:

- expose raw data publicly
- use inheritance
- overload operators with nonsense semantics

You **should**:

- minimize the public interface
- make misuse difficult
- prefer clarity over cleverness

Part 8 – Composition (The Quiet MVP of OOP)

1 1 Composition in Plain English

Composition means assembling behavior from parts, not becoming those parts.

Or more bluntly:

"Has-a" beats "is-a" most of the time.

1 2 Inheritance vs Composition (No Dragons Yet)

✗ Inheritance First Instinct

```

class ColoredPoint : public Point2D {
    Color color;
};

```

Problems:

- Locked into **Point2D** forever
 - Inherits everything, wanted or not
 - Hard to evolve safely
-

Composition Approach

```
class ColoredPoint {  
private:  
    Point2D position;  
    Color color;  
};
```

Benefits:

- Clear ownership
 - Modular behavior
 - Fewer unintended side effects
-

The Big Takeaway

Inheritance expresses identity.

Composition expresses capability.

Most real systems care more about **capability**.

Part 9 — Reflection (Yes, This Is Graded)

Answer honestly:

1. Does your **Point2D** feel like a built-in type?
2. What design choice most contributed to that feeling?
3. Which OOP concept currently feels overhyped?
4. Which one feels underrated?
5. What part of this worksheet made you uncomfortable — and why?

If nothing made you uncomfortable, you probably didn't push hard enough.

Grading Rubric (100 Points)

Conceptual Understanding — 25 pts

- Overloading vs Overriding: 10

- Constructors & Init Lists: 10
- Struct vs Class (intent-based): 5

Operator Overloading Design — 25 pts

- Semantic correctness: 10
- Const correctness: 5
- Member vs friend choice: 5
- Minimal interface: 5

Class Design & Encapsulation — 25 pts

- Private data: 10
- Constructor quality: 5
- Initialization lists: 5
- Friend usage justification: 5

Code Quality — 15 pts

- Compiles cleanly: 5
- Readability & naming: 5
- Comments explain *why*: 5

Reflection & Judgment — 10 pts

- Honest reflection: 5
 - Insight into tradeoffs: 5
-

Final Instructor Note (Read This Twice)

That feeling of:

"There's always something else... another way... something deeper..."

That's not failure.

That's **abstraction having no ceiling**.

The goal is not perfection.

The goal is **better judgment**.

Deliverables

- Make sure you have a folder called Assignments in your Github repo.
- Create a folder in Assignments called H01 and place all of your documents in there.
- Generate a pdf of your solution and have the entire worksheet not just uploaded to Github, but also printed and brought to class Monday the 16th of February.
- This really is a study guide as we will have an exam the week of the 16th.

- You have to use markdown to create your document. Why? It does syntax highlighting, and makes writing documents easy.
 - [Markdown Getting Started](#)
 - [Markdown Cheatsheet](#)
- If you use code spaces or download VsCode, you can install plugins to let you convert markdown to pdf, and to allow you to print directly from VsCode.