**Basics**

>>Unix is a name given to a family of operating systems like ubuntu, Redhat linux, hp-ux, aix etc. most of the programs written for one os is NOT compatible with other OS. Non-unix family OS example is Windows.

>> Shell is a program which is used to start other programs. Knowledge about shell is needed to automate commonly used tasks, and for the Unix system administration.

>>If the shell offers the facility to read its commands from a text file, then the aforementioned syntax and features may be thought of as a programming language, and such files may be thought of as scripts

>>Unix architecture is "Terminal" based OS. ie, many users using the SAME computer with their own keyboard and monitor. where as in the case of PC the computer has only one keyboard and monitor.

>> some unix terminals capable of displaying GUI, known as x-terminals.

>> Unlike Windows, unix has no concept of file type.

>> The program "file" is used to make a guess as to a file’s contents

>> files whose names start with a dot "." are considered hidden. ls -a will display hidden files.

>> "." is current directory and ".." is a parent directory. these are treated as hidden.

>> who am i --> displays the user name

>> which command-name --> this gives path name of the program.

ex: which bash

>> id --> displays the uid and gid of the user.

>> su username --> temporarily run the shell as another user.

>> To change the PS1 or terminal prompt to something useful.

edit .bashrc or .profile depends on the Operating system details.