

r/IGCSE Resources

Basic Programming Syntax for Cambridge IGCSE **Computer Science** (0478)

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1st edition, for examination until 2028

Information

This booklet explains the structures of Pseudocode and Python with clear examples to help the user understand the basics of programming using these programming languages.

All information provided in this document is aligned inclusively with the *Cambridge IGCSE*[™] and *Cambridge O Level* Computer Science syllabus covering examinations from 2023 to 2028.

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Comments

Comments in code act as a form of note that programmers might add to explain sections of programs or other forms of logic. They are ignored by the compiler when the program is being executed. These comments help make the code maintainable and manageable both for the program author and other programmers.

Comments can be generalized into three forms, these are as follows:

- Multi-line comments
- Single-line comments
- Inline comments

In Pseudocode, all forms of comments are preceded with //.

Pseudocode

```
Multi-line comments
// This is an example of a multi-line comment
// It is normally used for larger explanations
```

```
Single-line comments
```

```
\ensuremath{{\prime}}\xspace // This is an example of a single-line comment
```

```
Inline comments
OUTPUT Result // This is an example of an inline comment
```

In Python, multi-line comments are delimited by ''' and, single-line and inline comments are preceded with #.

Python		
Multi-line comments		
This is an example of a multi-line comment It is normally used for larger explanations		
Single-line comments # This is an example of a single-line comment		
<pre>Inline comments print(result) # This is an example of an inline comment</pre>		

Data Types

In programming, there are a few keywords used to designate certain data types, these are as follows:

Pseudocode	Python
INTEGER	int
REAL	float
CHAR	str with single character
STRING	str
BOOLEAN	bool

Literals

Literals of these data types are written as follows:

INTEGER	written as normal in the denary numbering system, e.g: $5, -3, 0$
REAL	written with at least one digit on either side of the decimal point (0s being added if necessary), e.g. $3.14, -4.5, 0.0$
CHAR	written as a single character delimited by single quotes, e.g. $'x'$, '@'. In Python, characters are written as a string with a single character.
STRING	delimited by double quotes. Strings may be empty, e.g. "An orange cat", " ".
BOOLEAN	written as either TRUE or FALSE.

Declarations

In programming, a declaration is a statement that introduces an element to a program. It provides the compiler with explicit information about the element before it is used. Additionally, by using declarations, programmers enhance the accessibility and maintainability of their code.

In Pseudocode, there are two types of declarations, these are as follows:

- Variable declaration
- Constant declaration

Variable Declaration

Variables are declared in the following format:

```
DECLARE <identifier> : <data type>
```

```
      Pseudocode

      Declaration of the INTEGER data type

      DECLARE NumTeams : INTEGER

      Declaration of the REAL data type

      DECLARE Score : REAL

      Declaration of the CHAR data type

      DECLARE Choice : CHAR

      Declaration of the STRING data type

      DECLARE Feedback : STRING

      Declaration of the BOOLEAN data type

      DECLARE Found : BOOLEAN
```

Constant Declaration

Constants are declared by stating the identifier and the literal value in the following format:

```
CONSTANT <identifier> ← <value>
```

Pseudocode

```
Constant declaration of integer
```

CONSTANT UpperBound \leftarrow 15

```
Constant declaration of decimal number
```

CONSTANT MaxTemp \leftarrow 123.4

Assignment

In Pseudocode, the assignment operator is -

Assignment statements are written in the following format:

```
<identifier> ← <value>
```

Pseudocode

Assigning a literal value to a variable MaxAttempt $\leftarrow 4$

Assigning an expression to a variable ActualScore ← Score * 100

Assigning another variable to a variable CurrentTemp ← Temp

In Python, the assignment operator is =

Assignment statements are written in the following format:

```
<identifier> = <value>
```

Python

Assigning a literal value to a variable max attempt = 8

Assigning a function to a variable answer = input()

Assigning an expression to a variable

```
average_score = score / 8
```

Assigning another variable to a variable

current_score = score

Functions

In programming there are a few built-in library functions that may be provided.

Input and Output

In Pseudocode, values can be input as follows:

INPUT <identifier>

Values can be output as follows:

OUTPUT <value(s)>

Several values, separated by commas, can be output using the same function.

Pseudocode
Input function INPUT Answer
Output function OUTPUT Score
Output function outputting multiple values OUTPUT AvgScore, TotalScore, HighestScore

In Python, values can be input as follows:

<identifier> = input(<prompt>)

Prompts are optional. They must be literals of the STRING data type.

Values can be output as follows:

print(<value(s)>)

Several values, separated by commas, can be output using the same function.

Python
<pre>Input function answer = input()</pre>
<pre>Input function with prompt num_players = input("Enter the number of players: ")</pre>
Output function print (score)
Output function outputting multiple values print(avg_score, total_score, highest_score)

Other Library Functions

In Pseudocode the following library functions are practiced:

ROUND(<identifier>, <places>)

Returns the value of the identifier rounded to places number of decimal places. The identifier should be any value that evaluates to the REAL data type whilst the number of places should be a positive integer.

RANDOM()

Returns a random decimal number between 0 and 1 inclusive.

Pseudocode
Rounding function ROUND (3.1415, 1) Returns 3.1
Random function RANDOM () * 5 Returns a random decimal number between 0 and 5 inclusive
ROUND (RANDOM () * 10), 0) Returns a random integer between 0 and 10 inclusive

In Python these library functions can be written as:

round(<identifier>, <places>)

Returns the value of the identifier rounded to places number of decimal places. The identifier should be any value that evaluates to the REAL data type whilst the number of places should be a positive integer.

random()

Returns a random decimal number between 0 and 1 inclusive.

Python
Rounding function round (3.1415, 1) Returns 3.1
Random function random() * 5 Returns a random decimal number between 0 and 5 inclusive
round(random() * 10), 0) Returns a random integer between 0 and 10 inclusive

Operations

In programming, there are three types of operations, these are as follows:

- Arithmetic operations
- Logical operations
- String operations

Arithmetic Operations

For arithmetic operations, standard mathematical operator symbols are used. These operator symbols are as follows:

	Pseudocode	Python
Addition	+	+
Subtraction	-	-
Multiplication	*	*
Division	/	/
Raised to the power of	Λ	**

Pseudocode

Calculating the area of a circle Area ← Pi * Radius ^ 2

Integer division operations may also be used for calculations.

In Pseudocode, these integer division operations are written as follows:

```
DIV(<dividend>, <divisor>)
```

Returns the quotient of dividend divided by the divisor with the fractional part discarded.

MOD(<dividend>, <divisor>)

Returns the remainder of dividend divided by the divisor.

Pseudocode
DIV integer division operation DIV (10, 3) Returns 3
MOD integer division operation MOD (10, 3) Returns 1

In Python, these integer division operations are written as follows:

<dividend> // <divisor>

Returns the quotient of dividend divided by the divisor with the fractional part discarded.

<dividend> % <divisor>

Returns the remainder of dividend divided by the divisor.

Python
DIV integer division operation 10 // 3 Returns 3
MOD integer division operation 10 % 3 Returns 1

Logical Operations

The following symbols are used for logical operations:

	Pseudocode	Python
Equal to	=	==
Less than	<	<
Less than or equal to	<=	<=
Greater than	>	>
Greater than or equal to	>=	>=
Not equal to	<>	!=

These operations evaluate expressions to BOOLEAN data type values.

String Operations

String operations are used to manipulate values of the STRING data type.

In Pseudocode, the basic string operations are written as follows:

```
LENGTH (<identifier>)
```

Returns the integer value representing the length of the string.

LCASE (<identifier>)

Returns the string/character with all characters in lower case.

UCASE (<identifier>)

Returns the string/character with all characters in upper case.

SUBSTRING(<identifier>, <start>, <length>)

Returns a string of the length length starting at the position start. The length and start should be a positive integer.

Pseudocode

```
Length string operation
LENGTH ("Good evening")
Returns 12
```

Lower case string operation LCASE ('H') Returns 'h'

Upper case string operation UCASE("A blue bird") Returns "A BLUE BIRD"

Substring string operation

```
SUBSTRING("Happy Days", 1, 5)
Returns "Happy"
```

In Python, the basic string operations are written as follows:

```
len(<identifier>)
```

Returns the integer value representing the length of the string.

```
(<identifier>).lower()
```

Returns the string/character with all characters in lower case.

(<identifier>).upper()

Returns the string/character with all characters in upper case.

<identifier>[<start>:<end>]

Returns a string that starts from the position start and ends at the position end exclusive

Python
Length string operation len("Rud is the best") Returns 15
Lower case string operation 'X'.lower() Returns 'x'
Upper case string operation "The orange painting".upper() Returns "THE ORANGE PAINTING"
Substring string operation "Hello Rud"[6:9] Returns "Rud"

Iterations and Loops

In programming, there are three types of iterations. These are as follows:

- Count-controlled FOR loop
- Post-conditional REPEAT loop
- Pre-conditional WHILE loop

Count-controlled FOR Loop

In count-controlled loop, the identifier must be a variable of the INTEGER data type.

For Pseudocode, count-controlled loops are written in the following structure:

The identifier is assigned each of the integer values from start to finish inclusive, executing the statements inside the loop after each assignment.

If start is equal to finish, the statements will only be executed once and if start is greater than finish, the statements will not be executed at all.

An increment can be specified as follows:

The increment must be an expression that evaluates to an integer. The identifier will be assigned the values from start in successive increments of increment until it reaches finish. If it goes past finish, the loop will be terminated. increment can be negative.

```
      Pseudocode

      Count-controlled loop

      FOR Index ← 1 TO 30

      OUTPUT Numbers[Index]

      NEXT Index

      Nested count-controlled loop

      FOR Row ← 5 TO 10

      FOR Column ← 1 TO 3

      OUTPUT Value[Row, Column]

      NEXT Column

      NEXT Row

      Count-controlled loop with specified increment

      FOR Index ← 1 TO 30 STEP 5

      OUTPUT Numbers[Index]

      NEXT Index
```

In Python, count-controlled loops are written as follows:

The range function creates a list from start to finish exclusively. If the start is not specified it will be set to the default start position, 0.

An increment can be specified as follows:

```
for <identifier> in range(<start>, <finish>, <increment>):
        <statements>
```

The increment must be an expression that evaluates to an integer. The identifier will be assigned the values from start in successive increments of increment until it reaches finish. If it goes past finish, the loop will be terminated. increment can be negative. start is mandatory to specify any step increment.

Python
<pre>Count-controlled loop for index in range(30): print(numbers[index])</pre>
<pre>Nested count-controlled loop for row in range(5, 10): for column in range(3): print(numbers[row][column])</pre>
<pre>Count-controlled loop with specified increment for index in range(1, 30, 5): print(numbers[index])</pre>

Post-conditional REPEAT Loop

In post-conditional loop, the condition must be an expression that evaluates to an BOOLEAN data type.

The statements in the post-conditional loop will be executed at least once. The condition is tested after the statements are executed and if the condition evaluates to TRUE the loop is then terminated, otherwise the process is repeated again.

In Pseudocode, post-conditional loops are written as follows:

```
REPEAT
<statements>
UNTIL <conditions>
```

Pseudocode

```
Post-conditional loop
REPEAT
INPUT InpPassword
UNTIL InpPassword = Password
```

Pre-conditional WHILE Loop

In pre-conditional loop, the condition must be an expression that evaluates to an BOOLEAN data type.

The condition is tested before the statements are executed, and the statements will only be executed if the condition evaluates to TRUE. After the conditions have been executed the conditions are tested again. The loop terminates when the condition evaluates to FALSE.

In Pseudocode, pre-conditional loops are written as follows:

```
WHILE <conditions> DO
<statements>
ENDWHILE
```

Pseudocode

```
Pre-conditional loop
WHILE Number < 10 DO
OUTPUT Number
Number ← Number + 1
ENDWHILE</pre>
```

In Python, pre-conditional loops are written as follows:

```
while <conditions>:
        <statements>
```

Python

```
Pre-conditional loop
while number < 10:
    print(number)
    number = number + 1</pre>
```

Selections

There are two functions of selections this booklet practices, these are as follows:

- IF statements
- CASE statements

IF statements

In Pseudocode, an IF statement without an ELSE clause is written as follows:

```
IF <conditions>
THEN
<statements>
```

ENDIF

IF statement with an ELSE clause is written as follows:

```
IF <conditions>
THEN
<statements>
ELSE
<statements>
ENDIF
```

CNDIC

Pseudocode

```
IF statement without ELSE clause

IF Answer = CorrectAnswer

THEN

Score ← Score + 1

ENDIF

IF statement with ELSE clause

IF Answer = CorrectAnswer

THEN

Score ← Score + 1

ELSE

OUTPUT "Wrong Answer!"

ENDIF
```

In Python, an IF statement without any clauses is written as follows:

```
if <condition>:
        <statements>
```

An IF statement with an elif clause is written as follows:

```
if <condition>:
        <statements>
elif <condition>:
        <statements>
```

There can be multiple elif clauses in a IF selection statement. Please note that elif clauses do not completely align with the syllabus, candidates should use it with caution.

An IF statement with an ELSE clause is written as follows:

```
if <condition>:
        <statements>
else:
```

<statements>

Python

```
IF statement with no clause
if valid:
    print("Permission granted")

IF statement with an elif clause
if red_score > blue_score:
    print("Red team have won!")
elif red_score == blue_score:
    print("Tie!")

IF statement with an ELSE clause
if found:
    score = score + 1
else:
    print("Failed!")
```

CASE statements

In Pseudocode, CASE statements allow one out of several branches of code to be executed depending on the value of the variable.

CASE statements are written as follows:

```
CASE OF <identifier>
<value n> : <statements>
ENDCASE
```

An OTHERWISE clause can be added as follows:

```
CASE OF <identifiers>
  <value n> : <statements>
   OTHERWISE <statements>
ENDCASE
```

These clauses are tested in a sequence. When a value that applies is found, it's statement is executed and the CASE statement is completed. If present, an OTHERWISE clause must be the last case. It's statement will be executed if none of the preceding cases apply.

```
Pseudocode

CASE statement

CASE OF Choice

1 : OUTPUT "Birch wood selected"

2 : OUTPUT "Spruce wood selected"

3 : OUTPUT "Fir wood selected"

ENDCASE

CASE statement with an OTHERWISE clause

CASE OF Movement

'w' : ycord + ycord + 1

'a' : xcord + xcord - 1

's' : ycord + ycord - 1

'd' : xcord + xcord - 1

'd' : xcord + xcord + 1

OTHERWISE OUTPUT "Invalid choice!"
```

In Python, CASE statements are written as follows:

```
match <identifier>:
    case <value n>:
        <statements>
```

An OTHERWISE clause (indicated by) can be added as follows:

```
match <identifiers>:
    case <value n>:
        <statements>
    case _:
        <statements>
```

Python

CASE statement with an <code>OTHERWISE</code> clause

```
match movement:
    case 'w':
        ycord = ycord + 1
    case 'a':
        xcord = xcord - 1
    case 's':
        ycord = ycord - 1
    case 'd':
        xcord = xcord + 1
    case _:
        print("Invalid Choice!")
```

Arrays

Arrays are fixed-length structures of elements that have identical data type, accessible by consecutive index numbers. Square brackets, [<index>] are used to indicate the array indices.

In programming, arrays can have multiple dimensions, however this booklet only practices 1D and 2D arrays.

1D Arrays

In Pseudocode, 1D arrays are declared as follows:

DECLARE <identifier> : ARRAY[<l>:<u>] OF <data type>

Where l stands for lower bound and u stands for upper bound.

1D arrays are assigned in the following way:

```
<identifier>[<index>] ← <value>
```

Pseudocode

```
1D array declaration
```

```
DECLARE StudentName : ARRAY[1:30] OF STRING
```

```
1D array assignment
StudentName[19] ← "John Doe"
```

In Python, 1D arrays are initialized as follows:

<identifier> = [None] * <u> <identifier> = [0] * <u>

Where u stands for upper bound.

1D arrays are assigned in the following way:

```
<identifier>[<index>] = <value>
```

Python

```
1D array initialization
student marks = [0] * 30
```

1D array assignment

```
student marks[15] = 88
```

2D Arrays

In Pseudocode, 2D arrays are declared as follows:

DECLARE <identifier> : ARRAY[<lr>:<ur>, <lc>:<uc>] OF <data type>

Where r stands for row, c stands for column, 1 stands for lower bound and u stands for upper bound.

2D arrays are assigned as follows:

<identifier>[<ri>, <ci>] ← <value>

Where ri stands for row index and ci stands for column index.

Pseudocode

```
2D array declaration
DECLARE Grade : ARRAY[1:30, 1:5] OF CHAR
2D array assignment
Grade[16, 3] ← 'A'
```

In Python, 2D arrays are initialized as follows:

<identifier> = [[None] * <ur>] * <uc> <identifier> = [[0] * <ur>] * <uc>

Where r stands for row, c stands for column and u stands for upper bound.

2D arrays are assigned as follows:

```
<identifier>[<ri>] (<ci>] ← <value>
```

Where ri stands for row index and ci stands for column index.

Python 2D array initialization student_attendance = [[None] * 10] * 5 2D array assignment student attendance[8][3] = True

File Handling

Pseudocode

File Opening

When opening a file, the mode of operation of the file should be stated as follows:

OPENFILE <file identifier> FOR <file mode>

The file identifier will be the name of the file. The following file modes can be used:

READ for data to be read from the file

WRITE for data to be written to a file. In case the file does not exist, a new file will be created. Existing data is overridden.

A file can only be opened in one mode at a time.

Reading from File

Data is read from the file (after the file has been opened in the READ mode) as follows:

READFILE <file identifier>, <identifier>

When executed, a line of text is read from the file and assigned to the identifier.

Writing from File

Data is written to a file (after the file has been opened in WRITE mode) as follows:

WRITE <file identifier>, <identifier>

When executed, the value from the identifier is assigned to the file.

File Closing

When a file is no longer in use, it is closed as follows:

CLOSEFILE <file identifier>

Pseudocode
Opening file in read mode OPENFILE "Names.txt" FOR READ
Opening file in write mode OPENFILE "Remarks.txt" FOR WRITE
Reading from a file READFILE "Names.txt", Data
Writing to a file WRITEFILE "Remarks.txt", Remark
Closing file CLOSEFILE "Names.txt"

Python

File Opening

When opening a file, the mode of operation of the file should be stated as follows:

<operator> = open(<file identifier>, <file mode>)

The operator is used as a reference to the file opened. The file identifier will be the name of the file. The following file modes are used:

- r for data to be read from the file
- w for data to be written to a file. In case the file does not exist, a new file will be created. Existing data is overridden.
- a for data to be appended to a file. Existing data will not be overridden

A file can only be opened in one mode at a time.

Reading from File

Data is read from the file (after the file has been opened in the r mode) as follows:

```
<identifier> = <operator>.read()
```

When executed, a line of text is read from the file and assigned to the identifier.

Writing from File

Data is written to a file (after the file has been opened in the w or a mode) as follows:

<operator>.write(<identifier>)

When executed, the value from the identifier is assigned to the file.

File Closing

When a file is no longer in use, it is closed as follows:

```
<operator>.close()
```

Python Opening file in read mode file_a = open("Names.txt", "r") Opening file in append mode file_b = open("StudentRegister.txt", "a") Reading from a file data = file_a.read() Writing to a file file_b.write("Jane Doe") Closing file file_a.close()

Procedures and Functions

Procedures and functions are always defined at the top of the program.

Procedures

In Pseudocode, a procedure with no parameters is defined as follows:

```
PROCEDURE <identifier>
<statements>
ENDPROCEDURE
```

A procedure with parameters is defined as follows:

When used, par n is the identifier for the parameters of the procedure. These will be used as variables in the statements of the procedure.

Procedures should be called as follows:

```
CALL <identifier>
CALL <identifier>(<val n>)
```

When a procedure is called, if any parameters are present, they are substituted by the values, and the statements are executed.

Pseudocode	
Defining procedure with no parameter PROCEDURE DisplayError OUTPUT "Invalid response! Try again" ENDPROCEDURE	
Defining procedure with parameter PROCEDURE CalculateScore(RawScore:INTEGER) FullScore ← (RawScore/60) * 100 HalfScore ← (RawScore/60) * 50 OUTPUT FullScore, HalfScore ENDPROCEDURE	
Calling procedure with no parameter CALL DisplayError	
Calling procedure with parameter CALL CalculateScore (48) Returns 80 and 40	

Functions

In Pseudocode, functions behave the same way as procedures except it only returns one singular value. During definition the data type of the value returned has to be stated.

A function with no parameter is defined as follows:

A function with parameter is defined as follows:

```
FUNCTION <identifier>(<par n>:<data type>) RETURNS <data type>
        <statements>
ENDFUNCTION
```

Function calls are not a complete program statement; the keyword CALL should not be used when calling a function. Instead, functions should only be called as part of an expression.

Pseudocode
<pre>Defining function FUNCTION SumSquare(Num1:INTEGER, Num2:INTEGER) RETURNS INTEGER RETURN Num1 ^ 2 + Num2 ^ 2 ENDFUNCTION</pre>
Using function OUTPUT "Sum of squares: ", SumSquare(5, 10)

In Python, functions behave the same way as procedures.

Function without parameters are defined as follows:

```
def <identifier>():
    <statements>
```

Function with parameters are defined as follows:

```
def <identifier>(<par n>):
        <statements>
```

When used, par n is the identifier for the parameters of the function. These will be used as variables in the statements of the function.

Function calls are not a complete program statement. Instead, functions should only be called as a part of an expression.

```
Python
Defining function
def sum_square(num_1, num_2):
    print(num_1 ** 2 + num_2 ** 2)
Using function
print("Sum of squares", sum_square(5, 10))
```



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