

Foundations-of-Computer-Science Valid Test Pattern - Quiz 2026 First-grade Foundations-of-Computer-Science: WGU Foundations of Computer Science Reliable Mock Test

Computer Science Principles — Unit 1 Quiz

Unit 1 Quiz — Foundations of Computer Science

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Student Directions

Read each question carefully. Answer all questions unless otherwise instructed. Show your reasoning where requested. This assessment focuses on your understanding of foundational computer science concepts.

Section 1: Vocabulary Match (8 points)

Match each term to the correct definition. Each term is used once.

A. Algorithm B. Abstraction C. Decomposition D. Input E. Process F. Output G. Computer Science H. Cybersecurity

- ____ 1. Breaking a large problem into smaller parts
- ____ 2. Step-by-step instructions used to solve a problem
- ____ 3. Protecting systems, networks, and data
- ____ 4. Data that goes into a system
- ____ 5. The result produced by a system
- ____ 6. The actions a system performs on data
- ____ 7. Managing complexity by focusing only on important details
- ____ 8. The study of problem-solving using computers and systems

Section 2: Multiple Choice (8 points)

Circle the best answer.

1. Which best describes computer science?
A. Using computers
B. Fixing hardware
C. Writing code only
D. Solving problems using computational thinking
2. Which is an example of an input?
A. A receipt

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WGU Foundations of Computer Science Sample Questions (Q45-Q50):

NEW QUESTION # 45

What happens if you try to create a NumPy array with different types?

- **A. The array will contain a single type, converting all elements to that type.**
- B. The array will be created with no issues.
- C. The array will be split into multiple arrays, one for each type.
- D. The array will be created, but calculations will not be possible.

Answer: A

Explanation:

When NumPy constructs an ndarray, it chooses a single data type called the dtype for the entire array. This is a defining feature of NumPy arrays: unlike Python lists, which can hold mixed object types freely, a NumPy array is designed for efficient numerical computation by storing values in a uniform, contiguous representation. Therefore, if you provide mixed types at creation time, NumPy will select a dtype that can represent all provided values and will convert elements as needed.

This process is commonly described as type promotion or coercion to a common type. For example, mixing integers and floats produces a float array because floats can represent integers without loss of generality.

Mixing numbers and strings often results in a string dtype (or, in some cases, an object dtype), because numbers can be converted to their string representations. Once the dtype is chosen, the array behaves consistently under vectorized operations appropriate for that dtype.

Option B correctly summarizes this textbook behavior: the array will contain a single type, converting all elements to that type.

Option A is too absolute—many mixed-type arrays still support calculations depending on the resulting dtype. Option C is vague and misses the crucial fact that conversion occurs. Option D is not how NumPy works; it never automatically splits inputs into multiple arrays by type.

Understanding dtype coercion matters because it affects memory usage, performance, and whether numerical operations behave as expected.

NEW QUESTION # 46

Which method converts the default smallest-to-largest index order of a list to instead be the opposite?

- A. `sortDescending()`
- **B. `reverse()`**
- C. `invert()`
- D. `flip()`

Answer: B

Explanation:

Python lists maintain an order, and sometimes you need to reverse that order so the last element becomes first and the first becomes last. The standard list method for reversing the elements in place is `reverse()`. For example, if `nums = [1, 2, 3, 4]`, then `nums.reverse()` mutates the list so it becomes `[4, 3, 2, 1]`. This is a built-in operation taught in introductory programming texts because it is efficient and conceptually simple: it does not create a new list unless you explicitly copy the data.

It is important to distinguish reversing from sorting. Reversing changes the sequence order as-is, while sorting rearranges elements according to comparisons. The question refers to converting the index order to the opposite, which is reversing. If you wanted descending sorted order, you would typically use `sort(reverse=True)` or `sorted(nums, reverse=True)`. But the direct method that reverses the list's order is `reverse()`.

The other options are not standard Python list methods. `sortDescending()`, `flip()`, and `invert()` are not part of Python's built-in list API. Textbooks emphasize learning the correct method names because Python's standard library provides a consistent, widely used interface across programs. Thus, `reverse()` is the correct answer for reversing the index order of a list.

NEW QUESTION # 47

Which file system is commonly used in Windows and supports file permissions?

- A. FAT32
- B. HFS+
- C. EXT4
- **D. NTFS**

Answer: D

Explanation:

Windows commonly uses the NTFS (New Technology File System) for internal drives and many external drives because it supports advanced features required for modern operating systems. One of the most important features is support for file and folder permissions via Access Control Lists (ACLs). Permissions enable the OS to enforce security policies by controlling which users and groups can read, write, execute, modify, or delete specific resources. This is fundamental to multi-user security and is a standard topic in operating systems and security textbooks.

FAT32 is an older file system designed for simplicity and broad compatibility. It does not provide the same fine-grained permission model as NTFS, which is why it is often used for removable media where cross-platform compatibility matters more than access control. HFS+ is historically associated with Apple's macOS systems, and EXT4 is widely used on Linux. While these file systems have their own permission and feature models, they are not the common Windows default for permission-managed storage in typical Windows deployments.

NTFS also supports journaling (improving reliability after crashes), large file sizes, quotas, compression, and encryption features (through Windows facilities). In enterprise environments, NTFS permissions integrate with Windows authentication and directory services, enabling centralized user management. Therefore, for Windows systems requiring file permissions, NTFS is the correct answer.

NEW QUESTION # 48

What is the output of `print(employees[3])` when `employees = ["Anika", "Omar", "Li", "Alex"]`?

- A. "Li"
- B. "Omar"
- C. "Anika"
- **D. "Alex"**

Answer: D

Explanation:

Python lists are ordered sequences indexed starting from 0. This zero-based indexing is standard in many programming languages and is a core concept in data structures. For the list `employees = ["Anika", "Omar", "Li", "Alex"]`, the mapping of indices to elements is: index 0 # "Anika", index 1 # "Omar", index 2 # "Li", index 3 # "Alex".

Therefore, the expression `employees[3]` selects the element at index 3, which is "Alex", and `print(employees[3])` outputs `Alex` (strings print without quotes in normal output).

Option A would be correct for `employees[1]`, option D would be correct for `employees[2]`, and option C would be correct for `employees[0]`. This kind of question tests understanding of list indexing, which is essential for iteration, slicing, and algorithm implementation.

Textbooks also note the difference between indexing and slicing: indexing returns a single element, while slicing returns a sublist. Here, because square brackets contain a single integer index, it is indexing. If you attempted an index that is out of range, Python would raise an `IndexError`, which reinforces careful reasoning about list length and positions. Understanding these fundamentals is critical for correctly manipulating datasets, where row/column positions and offsets frequently matter.

NEW QUESTION # 49

What is the expected result of running the following code: `list1[0] = "California"`?

- A. The list will be extended by adding "California" at the end.
- **B. The first value in the list will be replaced with "California".**
- C. A new list will be created with the value "California".
- D. A second element will be added to the list "California".

Answer: B

Explanation:

Python lists are mutable sequences, which means elements can be changed in place after the list has been created. The expression `list1[0] = "California"` uses indexing to target the element at position 0 (the first element, because Python uses zero-based indexing) and assignment (=) to replace that element with a new value. As a result, the list keeps the same length, but its first entry becomes "California".

This operation does not create a new list (so option A is incorrect); it modifies the existing list object referenced by list1. It also does not append to the end of the list (so option C is incorrect). Appending would use methods like `list1.append("California")`. Option D is not meaningful in Python list semantics; assignment to a single index replaces exactly one element rather than "adding a second element to the line." Textbooks highlight this difference between mutable and immutable sequence types. For example, strings are immutable, so you cannot assign to `some_string[0]`. Lists, however, are designed for collections that change over time, supporting updates, insertions, deletions, and reordering. Index assignment is fundamental for many algorithms: updating an array-like buffer, modifying a dataset row, replacing incorrect values, or implementing in-place transformations efficiently.

NEW QUESTION # 50

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

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