

Foundations-of-Computer-Science Exam Blueprint, Exam Foundations-of-Computer-Science Simulator

**CPSC 2600 Foundations of Computer Science
Sample
Midterm Exam 2**

Name: _____

Instructions

- The exam is to be completed individually. No collaboration.
- The exam is closed-book and closed-notes except for one 8.5" x 11" sheet of notes.
- Use of a calculator is permitted. Use of any other electronic equipment is prohibited.
- You will have 85 minutes to complete the exam.
- The exam consists of 6 pages. Make sure you have them all before you begin.
- Make sure your answers are legible.
- Be sure to state any assumptions you make.
- For proofs, your arguments must be clear.
- **SHOW YOUR WORK!** Correct answers without work may be penalized.

Question	Points	Your Score
1	20	
2	20	
3	20	
4	15	
5	5	
6	20	
Total	100	

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WGU Foundations of Computer Science Sample Questions (Q38-Q43):

NEW QUESTION # 38

The `np_2d` array stores information about multiple family members. Each row represents a different person, and the columns store family member attributes in the following order:

Age (years)

Weight (pounds)

Height (inches)

How is the weight of all family members selected from the `np_2d` array?

- A. `np_2d[:, 2]`
- B. `np_2d[:, 1]`
- C. `np_2d[2, :]`
- D. `np_2d[1, :]`

Answer: B

Explanation:

In a 2D NumPy array, rows and columns represent different dimensions of the data. The indexing form array `[row_selection, column_selection]` allows you to select entire rows, entire columns, or submatrices. The slice `:` means "all indices along this dimension." Since each row corresponds to a family member (a person), selecting weights for all family members means selecting all rows for the weight column.

The problem states the columns are ordered as: Age (column 0), Weight (column 1), Height (column 2).

Therefore, the weight column has index 1. The expression `np_2d[:, 1]` uses `:` to take every row and 1 to take the second column, producing a 1D array (or a column view) containing the weight values for all people.

Option A, `np_2d[:, 2]`, would select the height column, not weight. Option C, `np_2d[2, :]`, selects the third row (the third person) and all columns—age, weight, and height—for just that one person. Option D, `np_2d[1, :]`, selects the second person's entire row.

This column selection technique is fundamental in data analysis because datasets are often stored as

"rows = observations, columns = features," and extracting a feature vector is a frequent operation before computing statistics or building models.

NEW QUESTION # 39

Which type of data structure is the only focus of a binary search?

- A. Ordered list
- B. Queue
- C. Stack
- D. Linked list

Answer: A

Explanation:

Binary search is designed for searching in a sorted (ordered) sequence. Its efficiency comes from repeatedly comparing the target to the middle element and discarding half of the remaining search space. This halving logic only works when the data is ordered, because the algorithm relies on the guarantee that all elements on one side of the midpoint are smaller (or larger) than the midpoint. In textbooks, this requirement is stated explicitly: binary search assumes the collection is sorted according to the same ordering used for comparisons.

An "ordered list" is therefore the correct focus among the options. Binary search can be implemented on arrays or other random-access structures where you can quickly access the middle element by index. While you can conceptually perform binary search on a linked list, it becomes inefficient because finding the middle requires linear traversal, losing the $O(\log n)$ advantage. Stacks and

queues are not appropriate because they restrict access to ends only (LIFO for stacks, FIFO for queues), preventing direct access to the midpoint and making the binary search strategy infeasible.

Thus, the central requirement for binary search is a sorted/ordered sequence, typically supporting efficient indexing, which is why the correct choice is an ordered list.

NEW QUESTION # 40

Which Python command can be used to display the results of calculations?

- A. compute()
- B. result()
- C. print()
- D. solve()

Answer: C

Explanation:

In Python, the standard way to display output to the console is the built-in function `print()`. When a program performs calculations—such as arithmetic expressions, function results, or computed statistics—`print()` can be used to show those results to the user. For example, `print(2 + 3)` displays 5, and `print(total / count)` displays the computed average. Textbooks introduce `print()` early because it supports interactive learning, debugging, and communicating program behavior.

`print()` can display one or multiple items separated by commas, automatically converting them to string form.

It also supports formatting via f-strings (e.g., `print(f'Sum = {s}')`) and optional parameters like `sep` and `end` to control output formatting. This makes it versatile for reporting calculated values, intermediate steps in algorithms, and final program outputs.

The other options are not standard Python built-ins for output. `compute()`, `result()`, and `solve()` are not universally defined commands in Python; they might exist as user-defined functions or in specific libraries, but they are not the general command taught in textbooks for displaying results. Python follows a clear separation: expressions compute values; `print()` displays them.

Therefore, the correct answer is `print()`, as it is the primary mechanism for producing human-readable output from calculations in typical Python programs and coursework.

NEW QUESTION # 41

What are Python functions that belong to specific Python objects?

- A. Modules
- B. Libraries
- C. Methods
- D. Scripts

Answer: C

Explanation:

In object-oriented programming, a method is a function that is associated with an object (or its class) and is called using the dot operator. In Python, everything is an object, and many operations are provided through methods. For example, `"hello".upper()` calls the `upper` method of a `str` object, and `[1, 2, 3].append(4)` calls the `append` method of a `list` object. Textbooks emphasize that methods operate on an object's internal state and typically receive the object itself as an implicit first argument (commonly named `self` in class definitions).

This is what distinguishes methods from standalone functions.

Modules, scripts, and libraries are different organizational concepts. A module is a file containing Python code, including function and class definitions. A script is a Python program intended to be run directly. A library is a collection of modules that provides reusable functionality. None of these terms specifically mean

"functions that belong to objects."

Understanding methods matters because it connects to encapsulation and abstraction: objects provide behaviors (methods) that manipulate their data in well-defined ways. This design enables clearer APIs and supports polymorphism, where different object types can expose methods with the same name but different implementations. In Python, method calls are central to working with built-in types (strings, lists, dictionaries) and with user-defined classes, making "methods" the correct term for functions that belong to specific objects.

NEW QUESTION # 42

What type of encryption is provided by encryption utilities built into the file system?

- A. Encryption authentication
- **B. Encryption at rest**
- C. Encryption steganography
- D. Encryption in motion

Answer: B

Explanation:

File system encryption utilities are designed to protect data stored on a disk—for example, files on an SSD, HDD, or other persistent storage. This protection is called encryption at rest. The key idea is that if an attacker steals the physical drive, gains access to a powered-off machine, or otherwise reads storage directly, the raw bytes on disk remain unreadable without the correct cryptographic key. Common textbook examples include full-disk encryption and per-file encryption supported by operating systems and file systems.

This differs from encryption in motion (also called encryption in transit), which protects data while it is being transmitted over networks, such as via TLS/HTTPS, VPNs, or secure messaging protocols. File system utilities do not primarily address network transmission; they address stored data confidentiality. Option B,

"encryption authentication," is not a standard category; authentication is a security goal often achieved using mechanisms like digital signatures, MACs, certificates, and protocol handshakes, not a type of file system encryption. Option D, steganography, is the practice of hiding information within other data (like images or audio) rather than encrypting it for confidentiality.

In short, file system encryption utilities aim to ensure that stored files remain confidential if storage is accessed without authorization, which is precisely the definition of encryption at rest.

NEW QUESTION # 43

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