

10 Data Types and Structures – Part 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English	Write it 3 times (English)
data type	_____
record	_____
array	_____
element	_____
index	_____
file	_____
abstract data type	_____
stack	_____
queue	_____
linked list	_____

Recall

At IGCSE you stored single values in variables. Bring this with you:

- A variable holds one value (a number, a character, ...).
- You worked with lists of items informally.

At AS we store whole collections of data and meet some useful data structures.

New ideas

Read these first. Each idea has a short worked example. Then do the Practice.

■ 1 Data types, records and arrays

- a **data type** says what kind of value is stored (integer, real, char, string, Boolean).
- a **record** groups several fields of *different* types under one name (like one row of a table).
- an **array element** stores many values of the *same* type in one list; you reach each by its **index** (its position). A 2D array is a grid of rows and columns.

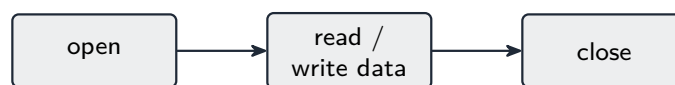
		column index			
		1	2	3	4
row index	1				
	2			99	
	3				

← Grid[2,3] ← 99

Worked example. `scores = [70, 85, 90]` is an array (all integers); a **Student** record holds `name` (string), `age` (integer) and `passed` (Boolean) together in one structure.

■ 2 Files

A **file** stores data on secondary storage, so it is kept after the program ends. You open a file, read or write data, then close it.



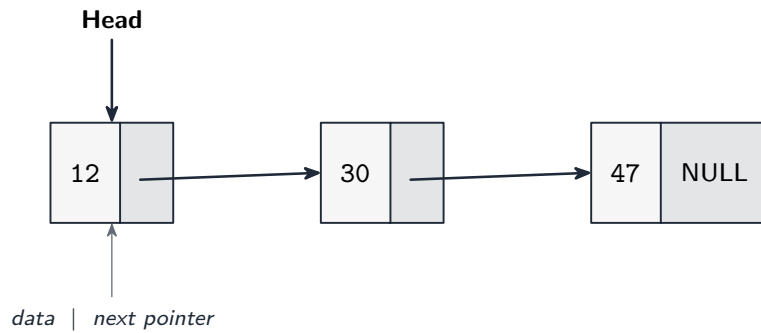
Worked example. A game saves its high-score table to a file when it closes, so the scores are still there the next time you play.

■ 3 Abstract data types: stacks and queues

An **abstract data type** (ADT) is described by what it *does*, not how it is stored:

- a **stack** is last-in, first-out (LIFO) – like a pile of plates;
- a **queue** is first-in, first-out (FIFO) – like a line of people.

A **linked list** stores items where each one points to the next.



Worked example. Pressing “undo” again and again uses a stack – your most recent action is undone first; a printer queue uses a queue – the first job sent is printed first.

Watch out: in many languages an array index starts at 0, not 1 – so $A[0]$ is the first element. Always check where the counting begins.

Practice

10.1 Give two examples of a data type. [2]

10.2 An array A holds the values 10, 20, 30, 40 in positions 1 to 4. State the value at index 2. [1]

10.3 A stack is LIFO and a queue is FIFO. State which one removes the **most recently added** item first. [1]

10.4 State one difference between an array and a record. [2]

10.5 State one thing a file lets you do that an ordinary variable does not. [1]

10.6 Explain *why* a stack is the right structure for an “undo” feature. [2]

10.7 Challenge. Items A, B, C are pushed onto a stack in that order, then two items are popped. State which two are removed, and in what order. [2]
