

12.3 Program Testing and Maintenance

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 34 marks

KEY WORDS logic error 逻辑错误 • syntax error 语法错误 • test plan 测试计划
 • dry run 手工跟踪 • regression testing 回归测试

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **testing and maintenance** — error types, test data, testing methods and maintenance types.

You must be able to:

- identify **syntax**, **run-time** and **logic** errors
- choose **normal**, **boundary** and **abnormal** test data
- describe testing methods and the three types of **maintenance**

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a question type used later — follow the steps and you can do the Practice and Exam-style questions yourself.

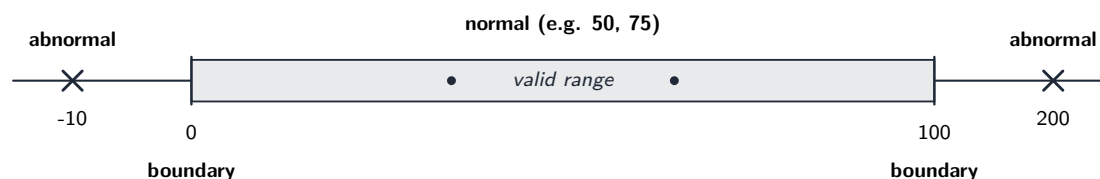
■ Types of error

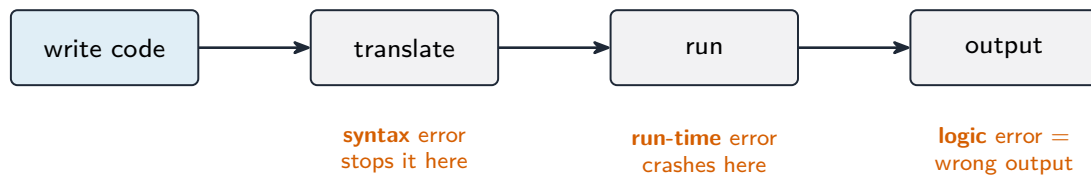
Error	When	Example
syntax	at translation — won't run	missing ENDIF, misspelt keyword
run-time	while running — crashes	divide by zero, array index too big
logic	runs but wrong output	+ used for −, off-by-one loop

Logic errors are hardest — the only sign is a wrong result, so **trace** and **test** carefully.

■ Choosing test data

For a field that accepts 0 to 100, test three kinds:





The error types that testing aims to catch

- **normal** — typical valid values the program should accept (50, 75)
 - **extreme** — the **largest and smallest valid** values (0 and 100)
 - **boundary** — a pair *either side* of a limit, where off-by-one bugs hide (100 accepted, 101 rejected)
 - **abnormal** (erroneous) — values that must be **rejected** (-10, 200, "abc")
- **Methods and maintenance**
- **dry run** — trace on paper in a **trace table**; **white-box** tests every path from the code; **black-box** tests inputs→outputs from the spec; **alpha** (in-house) then **beta** (real users); **acceptance** (the customer decides).
 - Maintenance: **corrective** (fix bugs), **adaptive** (cope with a changed environment), **perfective** (improve features/speed).

2 Practice

Now apply the methods above.

2.1 State the difference between a **syntax error** and a **logic error**. [2]

2.2 Give **one** example of a **run-time** error. [1]

2.3 A field accepts an age from **1 to 120**. Give one **normal**, one **boundary** and one **abnormal** value. [3]

2.4 State what a **dry run** is. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Identify the **type of error** in each case. [3]

(a) the program will not translate because an **ENDWHILE** is missing (b) the program stops with an error when it divides by zero (c) the program runs but the calculated average is always wrong

3.2 A field accepts a percentage **0–100**. Complete the test plan with suitable **test data** and a **reason** for each row. [4]

Type	Test data	Reason
normal		
boundary (low)		
boundary (high)		
abnormal		

3.3 State and describe the **three** types of maintenance. [3]

3.4 State what **regression testing** checks. [1]

3.5 A program calculates the average mark of a class. It translates without error, but for one class it outputs an average of 0.

(a) **Identify** the type of error this is, and **explain** how you decided. [2]

(b) **Describe** two ways of **exposing** a fault like this before the program is released. [4]

(c) **Describe** two programming practices that help **avoid** faults of this kind in the first place. [4]

(d) The program is later required to report the **highest** mark as well as the average. **Outline** the amendments you would make, and **state** what you would do afterwards to be sure the average still works. [4]

(e) **Explain** why this later change counts as **perfective** maintenance rather than corrective or adaptive. [2]
