

Java Methods A&AB, AP Edition



Synopsis

Once again, the Litvins bring you a textbook that expertly covers the subject, is fun to read, and works for students with different learning styles. In one volume, this edition covers both introductory Java/OOP A-level material and AB-level topics (data structures and algorithms). The book follows Java 5.0 and incorporates many other changes, big and small, to reflect the current priorities of the AP CS program. This edition offers an early focus on object-oriented programming and design and an expanded discussion of the Java collections framework. What has not changed is the authors' respect for students, clear explanation of concepts, common sense about practical software development issues, and realistic and fun case studies and labs. By choosing this book, you have joined the many thousands of students who have mastered computer science fundamentals and received high grades on AP CS exams using the Litvins's C++ and Java books.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Java Methods is a text you should consider for your classroom... an excellent text for teaching and learning Java. -- AP Central, June 15, 2006
Overall, I found it to be an excellent, exciting textbook for my AP CS classes. Roger Frank, Ponderosa HS, Colorado -- ap-compsci listserve 04/23/06

Kids are taking Java class at the 9th grade. My wife is a senior software engineer mainly writing C and C++ programs, but not too much in Java. She wants to help kids in learning Java. Her co-workers recommend this book. Per my wife's feedback, this book is very details oriented. It touches the Java beyond just surface level (like those learning Java for dummies type of book), it

covers both basic materials and advanced materials. It provide quite some examples to illustrate the concepts and the technicalities. My wife usually does a first level of scrubbing to identify sessions that are suitable for beginners (like my kids) and ask kids to read and study those sessions. It has been working great and kids are making good progress. Seeing how this book has helped my kids in learning Java, I would recommend this book to folks who want to learn Java programming.

Bad: shipping took longer than I like, almost two weeks. They did say that in their policy but I was anxious. No tracking number either. Believe they use lowest cost shipping. Good: very good condition book AND excellently low price (like a fast food meal). *I'm a retired C++ programmer using it for teaching Java and my own self study. *The textbook is used for a 2 semester high school AP Computer Science, yet sufficient in depth for college. *Texts sprinkles day to day situations real programmers face. I like this very much; students may miss these valuable insights if they read too quickly. Authors web site has many supplemental materials for students & for teachers (slides, textbook codes). Also good for self-study. *A previous edition text but current at our high school. Material is current. * book has very few illustrations, no color, like many college textbooks.

This was an excellent book for going over the basics of the topics covered for the AP test and the questions' difficulty ranged from the fairly prosaic to challenging and the projects could be involving, however, it seemed to pall in comparison to Barron's AP review book when it came to depth and all the intricate technicalities/special-cases governing the Java language which the AP test partially dwells upon for its subset. This book seems to sugarcoat the topics of AB without going into much depth which I found somewhat dismaying when it came to effectively and efficiently studying for the AP test. Otherwise, it gives an effective overview of the individual topics and leaves a basic understanding of the concepts of introductory computer science: for depth and technicalities including java-level implementation(particularly hash tables), I'd look elsewhere.(I Originally used this but found myself attracted to the more densely-packed information in Barron's AP after about 3 weeks of study in this. I was a student self-studying for the exam and needed a textbook to study the material as no instructor accessible to me taught it. Eventually, I earned a 5, though I credit that more towards Barron's than this.)

Taught a high school AP class. The practice exams in here were a great practice for my students. Be sure to get the latest edition as this one is out of date now, I believe.

good but old edition.

Our school system is adequate, but a little weak. Recently, a neighbor's daughter was injured badly. She finds the ordinary school day to be burdensome, and her parents would like a better school anyway. So, they decided to home school. They have poor confidence with math. Therefore, they asked me to tutor for their daughter. I have an earned Ph.D. in mathematics (several complex variables) and continuing and non-trivial research. The web site administrators decided to deny me access to their downloadable teaching support materials. They offered to allow the download to a teacher at the local system, but the local system has no such teacher. The school system doesn't offer any similar course at all. Because my Ph.D. did not arrive as a prize from box tops, I can manage fine. However, it is a significant professional discourtesy and is very disrespectful of my time commitment. Home school people should beware of using this text, since the support is not forthcoming at all. The book itself is great---or I wouldn't have chosen it. It gives a very complete curriculum, and it gives the instructions in ways that are sensible. It is sensible not only for young people beginning, but sensible for everyone. This is a very good instruction in object oriented programming. There are, to be sure, lapses in the explanations, even in early chapters. A central processing unit is described as an array of transistors etched into a silicon substrate. That explanation could, and should, be expanded, even for a beginner---even in early chapters. However, the fact that there are opportunities to improve the book, doesn't mean that there's something wrong with it. As a work product, it's excellent, and I don't know of a better book (or I'd have used it!!!!). There is one more important problem. Sections of the actual text itself are left as electronic downloads from their web site as opposed to just being bound with the book. To many people, this might seem to be no problem, since they always have full internet access. To me, this is a crime against humanity, and the publishers ought to have known better---even if the authors don't. The entire text should be printed between two covers on paper, and not spread partly across an electronic server half a world away. It is not too much to expect the whole book to be in one place and always accessible. You may never take your book to a quiet mountain stream to read, but shouldn't that be an option?

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