

# AP<sup>®</sup> COMPUTER SCIENCE A SCORING GUIDELINES

Apply the question assessment rubric first, which always takes precedence. Penalty points can only be deducted in a part of the question that has earned credit via the question rubric. No part of a question (a, b, c) may have a negative point total. A given penalty can be assessed only once for a question, even if it occurs multiple times or in multiple parts of that question. A maximum of 3 penalty points may be assessed per question.

## 1-Point Penalty

- v) Array/collection access confusion (`[] get`)
- w) Extraneous code that causes side-effect (e.g., printing to output, incorrect precondition check)
- x) Local variables used but none declared
- y) Destruction of persistent data (e.g., changing value referenced by parameter)
- z) Void method or constructor that returns a value

## No Penalty

- o Extraneous code with no side-effect (e.g., valid precondition check, no-op)
- o Spelling/case discrepancies where there is no ambiguity\*
- o Local variable not declared provided other variables are declared in some part
- o `private` or `public` qualifier on a local variable
- o Missing `public` qualifier on class or constructor header
- o Keyword used as an identifier
- o Common mathematical symbols used for operators (`×` `•` `÷` `≤` `≥` `<>` `≠`)
- o `[]` vs. `()` vs. `<>`
- o `=` instead of `==` and vice versa
- o `length/size` confusion for array, String, List, or ArrayList; with or without `()`
- o Extraneous `[]` when referencing entire array
- o `[i,j]` instead of `[i][j]`
- o Extraneous size in array declaration, e.g., `int[size] nums = new int[size];`
- o Missing `;` where structure clearly conveys intent
- o Missing `{ }` where indentation clearly conveys intent
- o Missing `()` on parameter-less method or constructor invocations
- o Missing `()` around `if` or `while` conditions

*\*Spelling and case discrepancies for identifiers fall under the “No Penalty” category only if the correction can be **unambiguously** inferred from context, for example, “ArrayList” instead of “Arraylist”. As a counterexample, note that if the code declares “`int G=99, g=0;`”, then uses “`while (G < 10)`” instead of “`while (g < 10)`”, the context does **not** allow for the reader to assume the use of the lower case variable.*