



Name: Index: Reg.no.: Class: Date:

FILE HANDLING

Writing files to disk and reading files from disk is called file handling.

Purpose of File

When data is saved to a file

- It is stored permanently
- Can be accessed by the same program at a later date
- Can be accessed by another program, or sent to be used on another computer

Opening a file

To use a file we must first open it:

OPENFILE <File identifier> **FOR** <File mode>

The file identifier will be the name of the file with data type string.

A file should be opened in only one mode at a time.

The following file modes are used:

- **READ** - for data to be read from the file
- **WRITE** - for data to be written to the file. A new file will be created and any existing data in the file will be lost.

1. READ

OPENFILE <File identifier> **FOR READ**

Example:

OPENFILE "MyFile.txt" FOR READ

2. WRITE

OPENFILE <File identifier> **FOR WRITE**

Example:

OPENFILE "MyFile.txt" FOR WRITE

TASK 1

names.txt

a) Open the above file to read data from it.

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b) Open the above file to write data to it.

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Closing a file

Files should be closed when they are no longer needed.

CLOSEFILE <File identifier>

Example:

CLOSEFILE "MyText.txt"

Practice question

A student want to **copy the first line** of text from a file called **FileA.txt** and **save it into another file** called **FileB.txt**.

```
DECLARE LineOfText : STRING
OPENFILE "FileA.txt" FOR READ
OPENFILE "FileB.txt" FOR WRITE
READFILE "FileA.txt", LineOfText
WRITEFILE "FileB.txt", LineOfText
CLOSEFILE "FileA.txt"
CLOSEFILE "FileB.txt"
```



Practice Questions

1. A text file called **Hello.txt** contains the following text:

Welcome to Computer Science!

Write pseudocode to **read** this line from the file and **display** it on the screen.

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2. Write pseudocode to **create** a new file called **Greeting.txt** and write this message into it:

Have a great day!

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3. Write pseudocode to:

1. Ask the user to enter their name.
2. Save the name in a file called **User.txt**.

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Past Paper Questions

1. (a) Outline why it is useful to store data in a file.

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..... [2]

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(b) The accepted password, `Password`, is to be written to the file `MyPassword.txt`

Write pseudocode to:

- open the file
- write the accepted password to the file
- close the file.

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..... [3]

(c) Explain why the accepted password needs to be stored in a file.

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