

Sample Questions with Answers

Programming Languages - COBOL

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Programming Languages

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Question 1:

What is the linkage section?

[ANSWER] Answer & Explanation:

The linkage section is part of a called program that 'links' or maps to data items in the calling program or working storage. It is the part of the called program where these shared items are defined.

Question 2:

Explain call by context by comparing it to other calls?

[ANSWER] Answer & Explanation:

The parameters passed in a call by context are protected from modification by the called program. In a normal call they are able to be modified.

Question 3:

What was removed from COBOL in the COBOL II implementation?

[ANSWER] Answer & Explanation:

Partial list: REMARKS, NOMINAL KEY, PAGE-COUNTER, CURRENT-DAY, TIME-OF-DAY, STATE, FLOW, COUNT, EXAMINE, EXHIBIT, READY TRACE and RESET TRACE

Question 4:

What is the significance of above the line and below the line?

[ANSWER] Answer & Explanation:

Before IBM introduced MVS/XA architecture in the 1980's a program's virtual storage was limited to 16 Megs. Programs compiled with a 24 bit mode can only address 16 Mb of space, as though they were kept under an imaginary storage line. With COBOL II a program compiled with a 31 bit mode can be 'above the 16 Mb line. (This 'below the line', 'above the line' imagery confuses most mainframe programmers, who tend to be a literal minded group.)

Question 5:

What is the difference between NEXT SENTENCE and CONTINUE?

[ANSWER] Answer & Explanation:

NEXT SENTENCE gives control to the verb following the next period. CONTINUE gives control to the next verb after the explicit scope terminator. (This is not one of COBOL II's finer implementations). It is safest to use CONTINUE rather than NEXT SENTENCE in COBOL II.

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