

Java Foundation Study Guide

Oracle Certified Foundations Associate, Java

Validate your Java fundamentals with an Oracle certification recognised by employers worldwide. This guide covers exam topics, costs, study strategies, and resources aligned with Code College's Java & AI bootcamp curriculum.

~60

Questions

120 Min

Duration

~65%

Pass Mark

Oracle

Issuer

WHAT IS JAVA FOUNDATION?

Certification Overview

The Oracle Certified Foundations Associate, Java (exam 1Z0-811) is Oracle's entry-level Java certification. It validates knowledge of Java syntax, object-oriented principles, core APIs, and problem-solving fundamentals — the ideal first credential for bootcamp graduates entering the Java ecosystem.

Exam Code: 1Z0-811**Format:** Multiple Choice**Questions:** ~60**Time:** 120 minutes**Pass Mark:** ~65%**Issuer:** Oracle

EXAM OBJECTIVES

What You'll Be Tested On

Java Basics (20%)

- › Java's role in the technology landscape
- › Java program structure: classes, main method, compilation
- › Primitive data types: int, double, boolean, char
- › Variable declaration, initialisation, and scope
- › String creation and common String methods

Object-Oriented Principles (30%)

- › Defining and instantiating classes
- › Instance variables, constructors, and methods
- › Inheritance with extends, method overriding
- › Encapsulation: getters, setters, access modifiers
- › Polymorphism and interfaces
- › Abstract classes vs concrete classes

Arrays and Collections (20%)

- › Single and multi-dimensional arrays
- › ArrayList: add, remove, get, size
- › Iterating with for-each loops
- › Basic use of HashMap

Exception Handling (15%)

- › Checked vs unchecked exceptions
- › try / catch / finally blocks
- › Common exceptions: NullPointerException, ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException
- › Creating and throwing custom exceptions

Control Flow & Operators (15%)

- › if / else if / else, switch statements
- › for, while, do-while loops
- › Arithmetic, relational, logical, and ternary operators
- › Math class methods

EXAM INVESTMENT

Costs & Budgeting

Official Oracle Exam (via Oracle University / Pearson VUE)

SINGLE EXAM

\$99

Standard price (USD)

WITH PRACTICE TEST

\$149

Exam + Oracle practice kit

Prices vary by region. Check education.oracle.com for current ZAR pricing and student discount availability.

Practice & Preparation Resources

Oracle University

Official learning paths and practice exams

Udemy — Java OCA/OCP courses

\$19–\$49 — Jeanne Boyarsky or Tim Buchalka

Enthuware Mock Exams

~\$15 — widely regarded as closest to real exam

HackerRank / LeetCode

Free Java problem-solving practice

Recommended Budget for Code College Graduates

- › **Minimum (\$99):** Exam only — suitable if bootcamp material is fresh
- › **Recommended (\$115–\$150):** Exam + Enthuware mock exams
- › **Premium (\$200+):** Exam + Udemy course + Enthuware

STUDY STRATEGIES

Prepare to Pass

Before the Exam (5–6 weeks)

- › Review your bootcamp Java projects — identify OOP patterns used
- › Write small programs daily: class hierarchies, collection manipulation
- › Run code on paper first, then verify — builds exam-day tracing speed
- › Do at least two full Enthware mock exams before booking
- › Score consistently above 75% on mocks before sitting the real exam

During the Exam

- › Allocate ~2 minutes per question — 120 min for ~60 questions
- › For output questions: trace variable values through each line
- › Watch for access modifier traps (private vs protected vs public)
- › Read all answers before selecting — Oracle exams often have two close options
- › Flag uncertain questions; the review tool is your friend

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- › Java arrays are zero-indexed — [0] is the first element
- › Strings are immutable — methods return new objects, not modified originals
- › == compares references for objects; use .equals() for value comparison
- › int division truncates — $7/2 = 3$, not 3.5
- › Instance variables have default values; local variables do not

Recommended Resources

- › **Official:** education.oracle.com — exam guide and objectives
- › **Book:** OCA Java SE 8 Programmer I (Boyarsky & Selikoff)
- › **Practice:** Enthware mock exams, HackerRank Java track

FINAL TIPS

You've Got This

The Java Foundation exam is designed for programmers with 6–12 months of Java experience — which is exactly what Code College's Java & AI Bootcamp provides. You have built real applications, worked with Spring Boot, and applied OOP daily. The certification is formalising what you already know.

Keys to Success

- › Review your bootcamp code — the answers are often already there
- › Focus extra time on collections and exception handling
- › Run code snippets in IntelliJ to verify your mental model
- › Don't overthink — the exam tests fundamentals, not tricks
- › Book the exam once mock scores are consistently above 75%
- › Your Java Foundation cert opens the path to Java OCP (1Z0-830)

Good luck with your Java Foundation certification! ☕

This guide is provided by Code College to support your certification journey. Our Java & AI bootcamp graduates go on to careers in enterprise Java development, Spring Boot engineering, AI application development, and beyond.

Questions? Let's Connect

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We're here to support your learning journey. Reach out anytime!