

KK09 — Purposes and features of naming conventions for solution elements

Programming · Comprehensive exam study guide

STUDY DESIGN — YOU MUST KNOW

- Hungarian notation
- camel casing
- snake casing

Naming conventions make code consistent and readable, supporting maintenance and teamwork. Know the **purpose** and recognise each of the three styles.

Why conventions matter

- Improve **readability** — a reader infers meaning from the name.
- Aid **maintenance** — consistent names make code easier to update later (links to KK11).
- Support **teamwork** — everyone follows the same style, reducing confusion and errors.

The three styles

Convention	Rule	Example
Hungarian notation	Prefix indicates the data type/purpose.	strName (string), intCount (integer), btnSave (button).
camelCase	First word lower-case, each later word capitalised, no spaces.	firstName, totalScore, isPaid.
snake_case	All lower-case, words separated by underscores.	first_name, total_score, is_paid.

Key definitions to memorise

Naming convention	An agreed, consistent style for naming variables, functions and other solution elements.
Hungarian notation	A naming style that prefixes a name with an abbreviation of its data type or role.
camelCase	A naming style with no spaces where the first word is lower-case and subsequent words are capitalised.
snake_case	A naming style using lower-case words separated by underscores.

Exam technique

EXAM TIP

- Recognise a style from an example name in the stem — a common 1-mark question.
- When asked the purpose, mention readability AND maintainability/teamwork.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Mixing up camelCase and PascalCase (PascalCase capitalises the first letter too).
- Saying conventions 'make code run faster' — they aid people, not performance.

Quick revision checklist

- I can state two purposes of naming conventions.
- I can identify Hungarian notation, camelCase and snake_case from examples.

Exam practice — questions & model answers

Q1. State two purposes of using a naming convention in code.

State · 2 marks

Model answer

- Improves readability so meaning is clear (1).
- Aids maintenance/teamwork through consistency (1).

Q2. Identify the naming convention used in each: (a) total_score (b) strSurname (c) firstName.

Identify · 3 marks

Model answer

- (a) snake_case (1).
- (b) Hungarian notation (1).
- (c) camelCase (1).