C++ For You: An Introduction To Programming & Computer Science

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I used this text to prepare for the 1999 AP Computer Science examination. I found it to be excellent preparation for the exam. However, it must be noted that the text takes many topics beyond the depth required in the exam and if using the text solely for AP preparation, then the AP syllabus should be used as a guide as to how much to emphasize each topic. If the book is thoroughly gone through entirely though, it provides an excellent background for students studying technical fields at the collegiate level.I had not had any C++ experience prior to using this text, but I did have experience with other programming languages. The subtitle "An Introduction to Programming and Computer Science" may give the impression that the book is for beginning high school programmers. This is not the case though. This book is for students who have elementary programming experience in high school and would like to go beyond this to study computer programming at the collegiate level. The material covered in this text is consistent with introductory programming courses taught in college.

Far better than any comparable text, this volume presents the concepts of computer science with clarity and much detail. Neither bewildering the novice nor boring the expert, C++ For You++ covers all aspects of the AP C++ Exam. Two notable feature of this book are the clarity of the examples used to illustrate the concepts and the absence of numerous typos found in many of its competitors. The authors quickly respond to any questions you might have and maintain a nice web site with updates. I personally used this book to prepare for the AP Exam my senior year in high school, and

found it instrumental to understanding the language. My teacher had selected a different book, but it was so horrible in comparison that several of my friends and I used copies of this book instead and saved ourselves a lot of trouble.

C++ for You++ is a wonderful book. I don't know what the people who gave it 1/5 stars were thinking.The difference between it and other introductory books becomes apparent from the very beginning of the book.THe typical approach in intro programming books is to begin with a completely useless "Hello World" program. I don't know about others, but I generally feel like I'm being talked down to if the book assumes that I am too dumb to be able to undestand anything more.People learn a language not to write "hello world", but useful, more complex code.C++ For You++ starts off with a "dictionary" program. At first glance, this looks overwhelming. But as one starts to read the explanations and description that the book gives of what all the pieces of code do , and how they interact, it reason and meaning of the code becomes apparent.This approach allows for a very rapid ascent to a level where very useful programs can be written. Other books I have read waste much more time pre-chewing everything for the student, and take a lot longer to start giving useful information.When I picked up this book, my programming experience was confined to a very superficial study of Pascal (a couple of weeks worth of studying). Using this book, I was mastered enough C++ in three weeks to be able to outcompete the other AP C++ students in my class, who had had a *year* of high school level C/C++ class time, and were were using other books.The examples and problems given are also excellent. Someone complained they are too hard. That's not true. They take thought, that is true, but isn't that the whole point? And we all know how brilliant those programmers at big companies such as the one reffered to by one of the reviewers always are, don't we? ;-)Oh yes. This book covers some things that are NOT on the AP test (namely inheritance), in addition to the stuff on it. I think this was a great decision on the part of the authors, as inheritance is a fundamental part of C++ and OOP.Most books out there are mere study aids for the AP test. This book actually teaches people to program in C++. And once you know C++, then it isn't much of a problem to demolish the AP test.

This book poorly explains the concepts needed to understand C++. It is advertised as an introductory book, however, this book will only be useful with one or more semesters of exerpience with C or C++. The books only saving grace is that if you are studying for the AP, this book uses the STL dirived AP classes that you will need to be familar with. If you arn't taking the comp sci AP there is no reason to even consider using this book.

I learned to program with this text circa 1998. There's something to be said for the accompanying instructor, but of all the text books I had before and after this one was actually useful as a reference. Considering how inexpensive it appears to be today I think it is an amazing value.

The author includes many topics without explaining them long before they are needed. Her mentality seems to be "I'll give you every term in C++ then several chapters later I'll get around to telling you what each of these means and does." That type of writing will confuse anyone who does not already have a solid foundation of C++. This book has about the same amount of organization as the stories my 98 year old senile great grandfather tells about the martians fighting in World War I. I read Oleg Yaroshenko's The Beginner's Guide to C++ before using this book for a class (luckily, otherwise I don't know how I would have passed it). I liked it very much. It explains everything in simple terms, unlike this one. (It also costs about half as much.) The labs in each chapter are terrible as well. Most are completly useless. I can't think of a single one that was an interesting problem that taught you something.

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