THE STRUCTURE OF JAVA CODE

```
package firstproject;
public class firstProject {
      public static void main (String [] args) {
      //code here
      }
}
```

The coding window of your NetBeans has the above code if all the comments are removed. You can see we have the package name first. Notice how the line ends with a semicolon. If you miss the semicolon out, the program won't compile:

```
      package firstproject;
      The class name comes next
      public class firstProject {
      }
```

You can think of a class as a code segment. But you have to tell Java where code segments start and end. You do this with curly brackets, { }. Anything inside of the left and right curly brackets belong to the code segment. What is inside of the left and right curly brackets for the class is another class segment. This one:

```
public static void main (String [] args) {
}
```

The word "**main**" is the important part here. Whenever a Java program starts, it looks for a method called main. It then executes any code within the curly brackets for main. You'll get error messages if you don't have main method in your Java programs. But as its name suggests, it is the main entry point for your programs.

Concerning the parts before the main; **public** means that the method can be seen outside the class; **static** means that you don't have to create a new object; and **void** means it doesn't return a value – it just gets on with it. The parts between the round brackets of main are something called command line arguments.

In essence, we have a class called firstProject, and it contains a method called main. The two have their own sets of curly brackets. But the main chunk of code belongs to the class firstProject.

Output Window: When you run a programme in NetBeans, it will run in the Output Window at the

bottom of your screen, just underneath your code. This is so that you don't have to start a terminal or console window. In essence, the Output Window is the console.

Running a Programme: The easiest way to run a programme in NetBeans is by pressing F6 on your keyboard. However, you can also run a programme by selecting Run Project under Run menu.

Sharing your Java programs: To send your programs to other people so that they can run them, you need to create a JAR file (Java Archive). NetBeans can do all this for you. From the Run menu select Clean and Build Main Project. When you do, NetBeans saves your work and then creates all the necessary files. It will create a folder called dist and place all the files in there. The dist folder is placed where your NetBeans projects are. If you double click the dist folder, you should see a JAR file and a README text file.