



Desk Check

+ What is a Desk Check?

- A desk check is a tool used to test the logic of a program. This means that it tests whether the code is in the correct order and whether the output is what the programmer expects
- The tester creates some possible inputs and walks through the algorithm line by line, following the instructions of the algorithm



+ What should a Desk Check look like? (eg is Pythagoras Theorem)

Line Number	side1	side2	x	hypotenuse	Output
2	3				
3		4			
4			$3*3 + 4*4$ $= 9 + 16$ $= 25$		
5				$= 5$	
6					5

+ How do you make a Desk Check?

- Step 1) Make a list of all of the variables.
- Step 2) Assign line numbers to your algorithm
- Step 3) Create a table.
 - Columns: Label the first column with Line Number, the next columns with each variable (1 variable per column), and the last column with Output
 - Rows: Each row matches up to a line in your algorithm. If the algorithm uses repetition, a single line in your algorithm may be performed more than once
- Step 4) Consider what input you can use for your variables which will cover different pathways through your code (you may need to do more than one desk check table to test all of your code)
- Step 5) Step through the algorithm showing what happens to each variable on each line