6. Layout of a COBOL Program

A COBOL program would often be written down on a coding sheet (see attached example); it is necessary when doing this - and later when keying the program in to the machine - to follow certain rules:

1.   Most of the program should be written between columns 12 and 72 inclusive (known as Area B).

2.   All Division names and Paragraph names and certain other headings should *start* between columns 8 and 11 inclusive (known as Area A).

3.   Column 7 will usually be blank but if you want the line to be treated as a *remark* - an asterisk (*) should be placed in this column.

4.   Columns 1 - 6 and 73 - 80 can generally be left blank.

COBOL Coding Form

System:
Program:
Programmer:

Page no: of:
Date:

```
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION.
PROGRAM-ID. STUDENT-DETAILS.

ENVIRONMENT DIVISION.

DATA DIVISION.
WORKING-STORAGE SECTION.
01 STUDENT-NAME  PIC X(20).
01 STUDENT-MARK  PIC 9.

PROCEDURE DIVISION.
GET-DETAILS.
    DISPLAY 'WHAT IS YOUR NAME (UP TO 20 LETTERS)?'.
    ACCEPT STUDENT-NAME.
    DISPLAY 'WHAT IS YOUR MARK OUT OF 5?'.
    ACCEPT STUDENT-MARK.

PRINT-OUT-DETAILS.
    DISPLAY STUDENT-NAME.
    DISPLAY STUDENT-MARK.

FINAL-PARAGRAPH.
    STOP RUN.
```

Exercise
1.   Which items on the example program start in Area A ?
2.   Write your answers to the exercises from lesson 5 correctly onto a COBOL coding sheet.