Chapter 1: Foundation and Concepts

You will learn:

- COBOL history and evolution.
- Four divisions of a COBOL program.
- COBOL program structure.
- COBOL character set and utilization.
- COBOL words - types.

Chapter 2: Identification and Environment Divisions

You will learn:

- Purpose and function of the Identification Division.
- Purpose and function of the Environment Division.
- How to use headers in the Identification Division.
- Role of the Configuration and Input-Output Sections.

Chapter 3: Data Division

You will learn:

- How the Data Division is used for describing the data to be used by a program.
- Purpose of the File Section.
- Sequential File Description format.
- Coding a FD: File Definition for a sequential file.
- Format and clauses of record and data description entries.
- Coding member data items with record and picture descriptions.
- Coding customer information for a File Record Description entry.
- Allocating variables for strings, records, and calculations.
- Working-Storage Section.
- Linkage Section.
- Passing data.

Chapter 4: Procedure Division - Part 1

You will learn:

- Constructs of COBOL statements.
- Categories of COBOL statements.
- How to execute statements for numerical calculations.
- Performing character manipulation.
- Flow of control and looping statements.
- Reading and writing a sequential data set.
- Coding simple display statements.

Chapter 5: Procedure Division - Part 2

You will learn:

- INITIALIZE statement.
- Coding techniques for initializing data.
- SET TO TRUE statement.
- Explicit delimiters.
- Implicit delimiters.
- IF statement and IF ... Continue statement.
- In-line PERFORM.
- DOWHILE and DOUNTIL constructs.
- Main-loop.
- EVALUATE CASE construct.
- Versions of EVALUATE.

Chapter 6: Table Handling

You will learn:

- When to use a table.
- Allocating and initializing a table.
- Data Division considerations for tables.
- Differences between a subscripted and indexed table.
- Sequential searching of a table.
- How to perform a binary search of a table.
- Searching without the SEARCH verb.
- SEARCH statement.

Chapter 7: Internal Sorts

You will learn:

- Sorting - role and purpose.
- Advantages and tradeoffs associated with an internal and external sort.
- How to code the Data Division for a sort.
- Coding the SORT options.
- RELEASE and RETURN statements.
- SORT verb.
- Coding input and output procedures.
- DFSORT - Data Facility Sort.

Chapter 8: Compilation

You will learn:

- The sections of the compile listing.
- How to use the cross reference listings.
- How to determine the compiler options which are in effect.
- Overriding default compiler options.
- Compiler options which are available.

Chapter 9: Debugging

You will learn:

- Two approaches to debugging.
- COBOL debugging support.
- Tracing program logic.
- Finding uninitialized data.
- Debugging statements.
- Compiler options.
- SSRANGE compiler options.
- Working with the level of error.

Chapter 10: Related Programs and Subprograms

You will learn:

- The function of a subprogram and its advantages.
- The calling and called programs.
- Coding, invoking, and terminating subprograms.
- Coding the CALL and GOBACK statements.
- COBOL subprogram linkage mechanism for single and multiple entry points.