## Posts about graded assessments

discussion posted 7 months ago by [**owenpetchey**](https://edu-exchange.uzh.ch/courses/course-v1:UZH+BIO144+FS2020/discussion/forum/users/70627) (Staff)

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Dear Students, if you post comments/questions about graded assessments, I will always investigate and take appropriate action. But I may also delete or edit your post. For example, there was one recent post about the GA8, Q1. I took action and then deleted the post. Please rather e-come to a practical to make comments/questions about GA (or email me). All the best, Owen

Solution scripts

discussion posted 7 months ago by [**owenpetchey**](https://edu-exchange.uzh.ch/courses/course-v1:UZH+BIO144+FS2020/discussion/forum/users/70627) (Staff)

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A number of you have asked if solution scripts can be made available. Let's continue the discussion here. Kicking off with these comments from you, and my responses:

Bullet points are points / questions from students. Others are Owen’s reply.

* Is it possible to upload all the solution codes for the exercises?

I do not have what I would call nice, pretty, well commented scripts for any of the exercises. I have the rather messy, poorly commented ones that I made for myself.

I’ve posted a few solution scripts that due to the repetitiveness of the R, can be used as guides for other exercises.

* Now that we can schedule our work pretty much how we want, it would be much easier to have a solution to look at when we can’t get it by ourselves (often there are little things and to ask friends via text message is often not that easy, because everyone is at an other exercise or working at an other lecture). Waiting until thursday or friday to find a tutor to Skype is a good solution, but you are stuck until then and have to rethink the exercise again.

I have thought about this a lot. One thing that I’m concerned about is how much we are in a situation where what is easy for us might not be good for us. I.e. I am concerned about the negative effects of providing solution scripts. I want you to call in to the practical so I and the TAs can see how you’re getting on. I want you to ask each other for help. I want you to experience the joy of struggling and then finding the answer for yourself, and the confidence this brings.

That said, I don’t want you to be discouraged by frustration at not being able to get something running in R, for example. Hence I did not really come to a solid conclusion about what is best.

* Also for the last nice, beautiful plot with the text about methods, results and discussion it would be nice to have a solution for it, because you don’t know if it’s right until you have ask a tutor (and always to ask, is a bit time consuming and I think the solutions would be more efficient).

There is not one solution to this type of exercise. There are numerous beautiful graphs one could make.

* So I think everyone would learn more if we would have a solution.

I mentioned above that I am concerned that there might be negative learning consequences.

* Sometimes there are better codes to solve it and when we never see it -we will never do it like that.

I have seen lots of very nice codes written by many of you… I assume you could share these.

* I noticed that this topic was asked in the discussion forum before, but I really think that this would be a good idea.

Yes, It is frequently raised! And I have yet to be convinced by the arguments presented. They have good and valid points, but do not clearly address the risks.

## Posting code \*\*important and helpful\*\*

discussion posted 8 months ago by [**owenpetchey**](https://edu-exchange.uzh.ch/courses/course-v1:UZH+BIO144+FS2020/discussion/forum/users/70627) (Staff)

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Please have a look at this video about how to help us help you by you posting code in the Discussion forum...

<https://tube.switch.ch/videos/720d66c5>

(The video is poor quality right now, but should improve when switchtube has processed it more. If it isn't better by tomorrow, let me know and I will put it on youtube.)

## Statistical issues

discussion posted 6 months ago by [**owenpetchey**](https://edu-exchange.uzh.ch/courses/course-v1:UZH+BIO144+FS2020/discussion/forum/users/70627) (Staff)

Dear Students

I mentioned at the start of the course that I am not a statistician. Hence I have been unable to answer some of your questions about more statistical issues, particularly as we experience more and more complex statistics. Last year this was OK as I co-taught with a statistician. To deal with this better this year, Prof. Furrer has agreed to help with about statistics that I cannot answer (or cannot answer fully). Please post them as a new thread in the discussion forum. I.e. not below here. Include as much information as possible, including R code and output as appropriate. Please do not contact Prof. Furrer directly.

Many thanks and all the best, Owen

## During lectures--asking questions, making requests

discussion posted 10 months ago by [**owenpetchey**](https://edu-exchange.uzh.ch/courses/course-v1:UZH+BIO144+FS2020/discussion/forum/users/70627) (Staff)

You can say what you'd like explained again or have a question about by writing it in [this google doc](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1p0hWmb2_5aV0wI6KApbdSTEozkCxP36Kv07D3TRhOPg/edit?usp=sharing)

## Provide feedback here!

discussion posted 10 months ago by [**owenpetchey**](https://edu-exchange.uzh.ch/courses/course-v1:UZH+BIO144+FS2020/discussion/forum/users/70627) (Staff)

Dear Students

Please provide feedback about the course (and not questions about content -- make a New Post for these) in replies to this post. If you wish to give anonymous feedback, write the feedback on a piece of paper and leave it for us during "in-person" class. You will also get the chance to provide feedback by the official university process (more on that soon).

Many thanks

Owen

## Attending class is a good idea!

discussion posted 10 months ago by [**owenpetchey**](https://edu-exchange.uzh.ch/courses/course-v1:UZH+BIO144+FS2020/discussion/forum/users/70627) (Staff)

["attendance [is] a better predictor of college grades than any other known predictor of academic performance"](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.3102/0034654310362998?journalCode=rera&)

(links to an offsite article)

## What is this Discussion Forum for?

discussion posted 10 months ago by [**owenpetchey**](https://edu-exchange.uzh.ch/courses/course-v1:UZH+BIO144+FS2020/discussion/forum/users/70627) (Staff)

Use the discussion forum to ask questions, give tips, make suggestions about how the course could be improved... or anything else that springs to mind while you're taking the course.

We will respond as soon as possible!

Another example is that you may make a list of questions that you want to ask during the class. Or a list of things that you'd like us to go over again in class, or in more detail in class. Then we can look at these in class.

One rule: do not post answers to assessment or solutions to exercises. Help others find and realise for themselves the answer, but don't post the actual answer. Any posted answers will be deleted.

Another rule / guideline. Open a new post / thread for a new issue.

# What if you can’t run RStudio, or install essential packages

First option: ask a TA for help during one of the practicals. We can fix the vast majority of problems.

Second option: ask for help on the openedx discussion forum.

In some very rare cases, we can’t fix the problem. In that case we can give you access to a RStudio via a web browser (on a UZH server, so it will be fast). You can choose to use RStudio Cloud (<https://rstudio.cloud/>) but we do not recommend it due to it being entirely out of our (UZH) control.