Specialist English: Midterm Examination
(exam format and statistics)
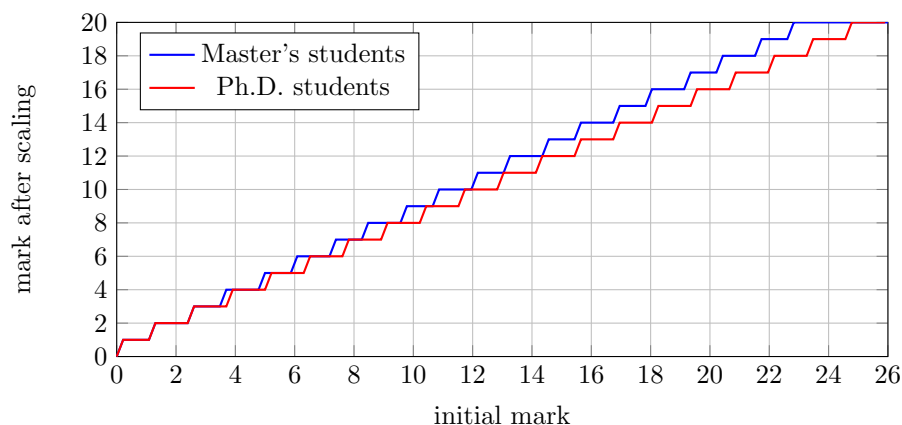
Rebecca J. Stones

Examination date/time: 3 December 2018, 10am

This document gives an idea of what's on the final examination. It's intended to help students focus their revision. Basic statistics of the examination is:

total no. snippets	8
total no. questions	14
total marks	26
no. pages	3

- Mostly short questions.

- The questions all relate to assignments 2 through 5.

- Please write legibly (in English). If I can't read it, there's not much I can do.

- You'll need to know what the following terms mean in order to understand the questions:

  - capitalization,
  - compound adjective,
  - countable noun phrase,
  - identified,
  - pseudocode,
  - punctuation.

- I won't be as generous with marking as I was in the assignments—you're meant to know the material by now.

- I won't set an exact time limit, but we shouldn't exceed the time allotted for the class.

- If you don't have a dictionary, I don't mind searching for a word online on the computer in the room. (Provided this doesn't get out of hand.)

- I'll provide some notepads to write your answers on. If you prefer, feel free to use your own paper to write on.

- No question asks you to write LaTeX code nor BibTeX code. However, if you're asked to find errors in a snippet, LaTeX-related and BibTeX-related errors are acceptable.

The initial mark m will be out of 26, and I'll scale the marks according to $m \mapsto \lceil 5\min(m, 24)/6 \rceil$ for Master's students and $m \mapsto \lceil 10m/13 \rceil$ for Ph.D. students. This is plotted below:

The reasons for scaling are: (a) there's higher expectations for Ph.D. students, and (b) some of the material is subjective.

The midterm has the following sections:

1   Math, punctuation, and references

no. snippets	4
no. questions	8
section total marks	12

2   Titles

no. snippets	3
no. questions	5
section total marks	9

3   Proofreading

no. snippets	1
no. questions	1
section total marks	4

In fact, here's the problem in this section:

> For [some given snippet], describe four ways to improve the writing within (a) the title, (b) the affiliations etc., and/or (c) the abstract. [4 marks]

Preamble

The following preamble is what's written on the exam sheet.

> This is the midterm examination for Specialist English (worth 20% of the final mark).
>
> The examination is open to paper notes (e.g., your own notes, paper copies of lecture notes and slides, dictionaries), not electronic devices (no computers, mobile phones, etc.).
>
> The initial mark m will be out of 26, and I'll scale the marks according to $m \mapsto \lceil 5\min(m, 24)/6 \rceil$ for Master's students and $m \mapsto \lceil 10m/13 \rceil$ for Ph.D. students.
>
> Please write answers as if you're communicating with a human, i.e., use complete sentences, and go beyond the absolute minimum answer, and explain *why* and *how*.