

ENGG1811: Computing For Engineers

2025 Term 3

Mock Exam and Final Exam Tips

Week 10: Monday 17th November, 2025

Monday 14:00 - 16:00 | HarpM15570

Today

Reminders

Study Tips

Tips for the Final Exam

Reminders

Assignment 2

- ▶ Please remember that Assignment 2 is due this Friday at 5 PM. Further, the second self-directed lab is due next Monday at 5 PM
- ▶ Try to learn from any lost marks on Assignment 1. The "collect submission" box on the assignment page provides valuable information and feedback about where you lost marks!

Final Exam Date/Info

- ▶ The final exam is on the 9th of December (a Tuesday).
- ▶ It is three* hours long .
- ▶ You will receive an email indicating which lab you will take the exam in and the time.
- ▶ In the exam, you will be given a sheet of writing paper and may bring pens and a clear water bottle.
- ▶ In the exam environment, you will have access to relevant lecture slides and Python documentation.
- ▶ Make sure to bring your student ID or other valid photo ID .

Study Tips

Preparing for the Final Exam

- ▶ The way to prepare for the final in roughly the order of most-to-least effective:
 1. **Re-do all your labs!**
 - ▶ The best thing about doing this is that you have the solutions if you need them, and it's your own work too!
 - ▶ Try to do it without looking over your answers, but if you're having a hard time, have a quick glance at your work to jog your memory
 2. **Re-do both assignments**
 - ▶ Same as above: it's good that you have your solutions ready, but do the assignments without looking over at your submissions if you can!

Preparing for the Final Exam (Cont)

- ▶ Continuing on:

3. **Do the sample exam**

- ▶ It is *crucial* that this is done under test conditions ; timed, no internet, and no external resources or help of any kind

4. **Live coding session recordings**

- ▶ The recordings for all live coding sessions are uploaded at the end of term

5. **Lecture/forum exercises**

- ▶ There are certain lecture topics and exercises you can try

6. **Course forum**

- ▶ Try looking through the Q/A on the forum; see if you can help others out

Tips for the Final Exam

Doing the Final

- ▶ There are only five or so questions in the final, so read through each question stem *carefully*
 - ▶ Don't stress out if you see a big wall of text! It is legitimately there to *help you*, and *not* to hinder you
 - ▶ Many students rush over the reading and miss crucial details or steps; do not let this be you!
- ▶ Unless you get astronomically lucky, there is bound to be *at least one* question that will stump you
 - ▶ This is not a cause for concern, and is utterly normal and natural
 - ▶ A great skill to have is to know what to do, when you have no idea what to do! We will go over this soon

More Tips on Doing the Final

- ▶ Style is not marked
 - ▶ However, displaying your work clearly and (if you're particularly at a loss) writing comments, *might* score you a few partial marks
- ▶ Questions in the final are roughly in the order of easiest to most difficult
 - ▶ But do not take this as gospel! Remember, the final exam is set by instructors who have a warped understanding of what is difficult
 - ▶ It is not at all uncommon that question 4 is significantly easier than question 3, or for question 5 to play to your strengths more than question 2
 - ▶ That is to say, do not stay too long on a single question under the impression that all the other questions will definitely be harder; because this can certainly not be true

Problem-Solving Strategies

So, what do you do when you don't know what to do?

- ▶ Get specific
 - ▶ Can you think about a particular example , and see what you're meant to do there?
 - ▶ Can you solve the problem if you ignore a particular requirement, or condition?
- ▶ Whip out the old pen-and-paper
 - ▶ Hopefully trying to solve the problem by hand can unlock a light-bulb moment
 - ▶ This is *not* you writing code on paper; this is you trying to solve the problem as if it were *not* a coding problem, and then you are translating your work into code

Debugging in the Final

- ▶ Debugging without the internet is probably one of the nine circles of hell; stay calm , and be under the expectation that you will get an error message that you will not understand
 - ▶ `print()` is your best-friend
 - ▶ Not sure why your variable is not giving the correct answer? `print()`
 - ▶ Unsure what happens to your list after each iteration of a loop? `print()`
 - ▶ Cannot for the life of you figure out why an if-statement is not going through? `print()`
 - ▶ Comment out code , and work slowly
 - ▶ If you suspect a chunk of your code to be responsible for a bug, comment it out and see if everything else that precedes it is working as intended
 - ▶ Then slowly uncomment each part of the chunk until you encounter the bug again

Final Word of Encouragement

- ▶ All the advice above is somewhat idyllic; in the pressure of the final exam, it will be very difficult to remember each & every little tidbit
- ▶ Your goal is not to be a machine that knows in every single circumstance what someone else has told you to do
 - ▶ Everyone has different ways of solving problems , and different temperaments when they encounter something challenging
- ▶ Your goal, instead, is to prepare as much as you can , and to demystify every obstacle you will potentially face
 - ▶ Hopefully during your preparation, you will find natural opportunities to use what I've said above, so that you can see if they resonate with you personally
 - ▶ Try to focus on strengthening the intuition that you've developed so far; if you've taken the course seriously and worked hard on this intuition, you should do well in the final!

That's a wrap!

Feedback

Feel free to provide anonymous feedback about the lab!



Feedback Form