

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!

- ▶ If you have any final questions, please($\times\infty$) do not hesitate to ask
- ▶ Please, please, please, please, please, please, please, please, please, please, please, please, please, please, please, please fill out the MyExperience survey ; it really helps! :) You can be as honest as you'd like!

Feedback

Feel free to provide anonymous feedback about the lab!



Feedback Form