

## CSI3344 Exam Information

Now that we have completed 9 teaching modules, you will no doubt be curious about the format and coverage of the exam. I have been to Delphi and the oracle has spoken on the CSI3344 Exam. This is what she told me:-

The exam is a three-hour closed-book exam, with a total of 100 marks which will then be converted to 50% of the unit result.

The exam will be in three sections. Section A is to assess your understanding of the topics covered by the unit, including the basic concepts of distributed systems, and the basic techniques/skills required or used in design and implementation of (common components of) a distributed system. Part B and C are to test your understanding of major points of the unit, and/or your problem solving skills, in particular, in the topic areas of synchronization, data consistency models & replication, fault tolerance and security.

Section A has one question (i.e., Q1) only, consisting of 30 *Multiple Choice* questions, drawn from the lecture slides, weekly readings, or Weekly Review questions. Q1 carries 30 % of total exam marks (1 mark each);

Section B has two questions (Q2 and Q3, with a total of 25 marks):

- Q2 consists of 5 brief-answer sub-questions, testing your understanding of key terminologies, techniques and issues of distributed systems. Q2 carries 15% marks;
- Q3 includes 2 sub-questions; each carries 5 marks (therefore a total of 10 marks). The topics are from (weekly) normal readings and Advanced Readings.

Section C has two questions (i.e., Q4 and Q5, with a total of 45 marks):

- Q4 consists of 5 sub-questions, carrying 25 marks, while Q5 consists of 4 sub-questions, carrying 20 marks;
- These (sub-)questions require you explain key concepts, or apply key techniques to solve problems, or demonstrate your understanding of key concepts/issues by analysing given scenarios, etc.
- The (sub-)questions are from topic areas of synchronization, consistency models & data replication, or fault tolerance.

Detailed exam coverage, possible tips, recommendations and a sample paper will be included in the Unit Revision lecture session in Module 12. Please read carefully the *revision* lecture slides and *all* materials in module 12.

I hope that you have enjoyed the unit to date and found the assignments both interesting and challenging. I wish you well with your assignments and, more importantly, the exam ☺

Best wishes,  
Jitian :-)