COMP1021 Spring 2022
Midterm Exam Details

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Practice Exam and Midterm Exam

- Get ready **at least 15 minutes** before the exam

  - **Practice exam** on **Saturday 19 March 2022**
  - **1:45pm - 2:00pm**   Make sure you are ready
  - **2:00pm - 2:15pm**   Practice exam

    Midterm exam on **Saturday 26 March 2022**
  - **1:45pm - 2:00pm** Make sure you are ready
  - **2:00pm - 3:05pm** Midterm exam

Timing of the Practice Exam

- **Saturday 19 March 2022**
  - **1:45pm - 1:58pm** Make sure you are ready
  - *1:58pm Password announced*
  - **2:00pm - 2:15pm** Practice exam

  - The practice exam is not worth anything, but it is extremely useful practice for the midterm exam, as well as the final exam

Timing of the Midterm Exam

- **Saturday 26 March 2022**
  - **1:45pm - 1:58pm** Make sure you are ready
  - *1:58pm Password for first part announced*
  - **2:00pm - 2:25pm** Midterm exam - first part
                                (25 minutes long)
  - *2:25pm - 2:38pm Toilet break*
  - *2:38pm Password for second part announced*
  - **2:40pm - 3:05pm** Midterm exam - second part
                                (25 minutes long)

What About a Lockdown?

- There *may* be a lockdown in Hong Kong

- If it happens, it *may* start on 17 March

- It *may* continue for 10 days

- **Nothing is officially announced!**

- If a lockdown goes ahead, would it change anything?

- **Probably not**: the intention is to continue with the arrangements described in these notes even if there is a lockdown

Why Two Parts?

- The only reason for dividing the midterm exam into two parts is to give you a break in the middle

Coverage of the Midterm Exam

- **For labs** - all the labs (lab 00 to lab 03)
- **For lectures** - up to and including the last taught lecture before the midterm

Where Can You Take The Exam?

- Because of the virus situation, you need to find your own place to take the exam

- This will probably be the place where you sleep

- Please take the exam using a PC/Mac and good internet signal, and follow the Zoom video requirements - discussed later

Extra Guidance

- Prepare backups:
  - It's wise to have a second device
    e.g. a tablet with bluetooth keyboard
  - It's wise to have a second Internet connection
    e.g. use your wi-fi signal/ your phone's internet /
    someone else's phone internet

- Don't use any special language input
  e.g. don't use Chinese/Korean language input

Practice Exam Details

- The exam is an open book, open notes exam

- There will be roughly 6 questions

- Some questions may have more marks than others

- During the exam, if it helps you:
    - You can run Python using IDLE
    - You can refer to the web site e.g. the course notes
    - You can refer to other web sites, if you are certain there is no communication feature in that web site

- Some of the practice exam questions are easier/ smaller than the actual exam questions

Midterm Exam Details

- The exam is an open book, open notes exam

- There will be roughly 7 questions for the first part/ roughly 5 questions for the second part

- Some questions may have more marks than others

- During the exam (both parts), if it helps you:
  - You can run Python using IDLE
  - You can refer to the web site e.g. the course notes
  - You can refer to other web sites, if you are certain there is no communication feature in that web site

Students Outside Hong Kong

- Students outside Hong Kong can consider logging in to the Virtual Barn, then use the browser inside it

- Because the Virtual Barn is already inside HKUST, it means you can immediately get access to the course web site (no need to login to the course web site, even if you are in another country)

- If you are in the mainland or other place which has Internet restrictions then you may find this approach to be very useful

Plug Everything In!

1. Make sure that your **laptop battery is fully charged**, and is **always plugged in**

2. Make sure that **your phone/tablet battery is fully charged**, and is **always plugged in**

3. **You must have the camera turned on, showing the correct things via Zoom** (see later)

Types of Question

- The style will be similar to previous midterm exams – several will be released for you to see

- In the exam there may be 'make a program from scratch' kind of questions (but there can't be many because there isn't much time)

- In other words, you may have to make a short program from nothing to work out the answer

- There will be some multiple choice questions

We Will Send You the Exam

- 2-3 hours before the exam we will send the PDF file(s) containing your exam to your ITSC email account
  - The exam will be sent to you from **namkiu@ust.hk**
  - Make sure your email quota is not full!
  - Check all your email folders to find the exam!
- Make sure you use only the exam sent to you
- In the Zoom room, just before the exam starts we will tell you the password so you can open the PDF file
- Read the exam questions shown in your PDF file and enter your answers into the **canvas system**

During the Exam

- With ~540 students taking the exam it is impossible for us to give good answers to any queries during the exam

- Also, you will disturb others if you ask something

- Prepare properly before the exam so that, hopefully, you don't have any issues once the exam begins

- You can email us after the exam if you think there is an issue with it; we will adjust marks if appropriate

Referring to Things on Paper

- You can refer to things written on paper (such as notes, books) IF those items are visible in your video stream

- You can write things on paper IF your hands and the paper are visible in your video stream

- Just to be clear – you cannot touch or adjust your camera device during the exam

Copying Code From the Exam

- Sometimes you will be able to copy and paste code from the exam PDF file, sometimes you won't be able to

- However, when you copy code from a PDF file and paste it **the indentation is removed** – you need to fix it before the code works properly

Copying Code From the Exam

- If you are using a Mac:
    - Sometimes you can only copy a few lines (perhaps 10 lines) of code from the PDF file at once
    - If you cannot copy all of the lines of Python code at once then you can simply copy the first few lines, then paste, then copy the next few lines, then paste, and so on

Copying Code From the Exam

- The basic idea:

  1. In the exam PDF file, select the Python code
     - Make sure only the code is included, not other things
     - Make sure all of the code is included, don't miss any of it

  2. Right click > Copy

  3. Go to your IDLE, do File > New File

  4. In the new file window, do Edit > Paste

  5. Fix the indentation at the start of the code (if needed)

  6. Run the program (Run > Run Module) / edit the program, and so on - depending on what the question asks
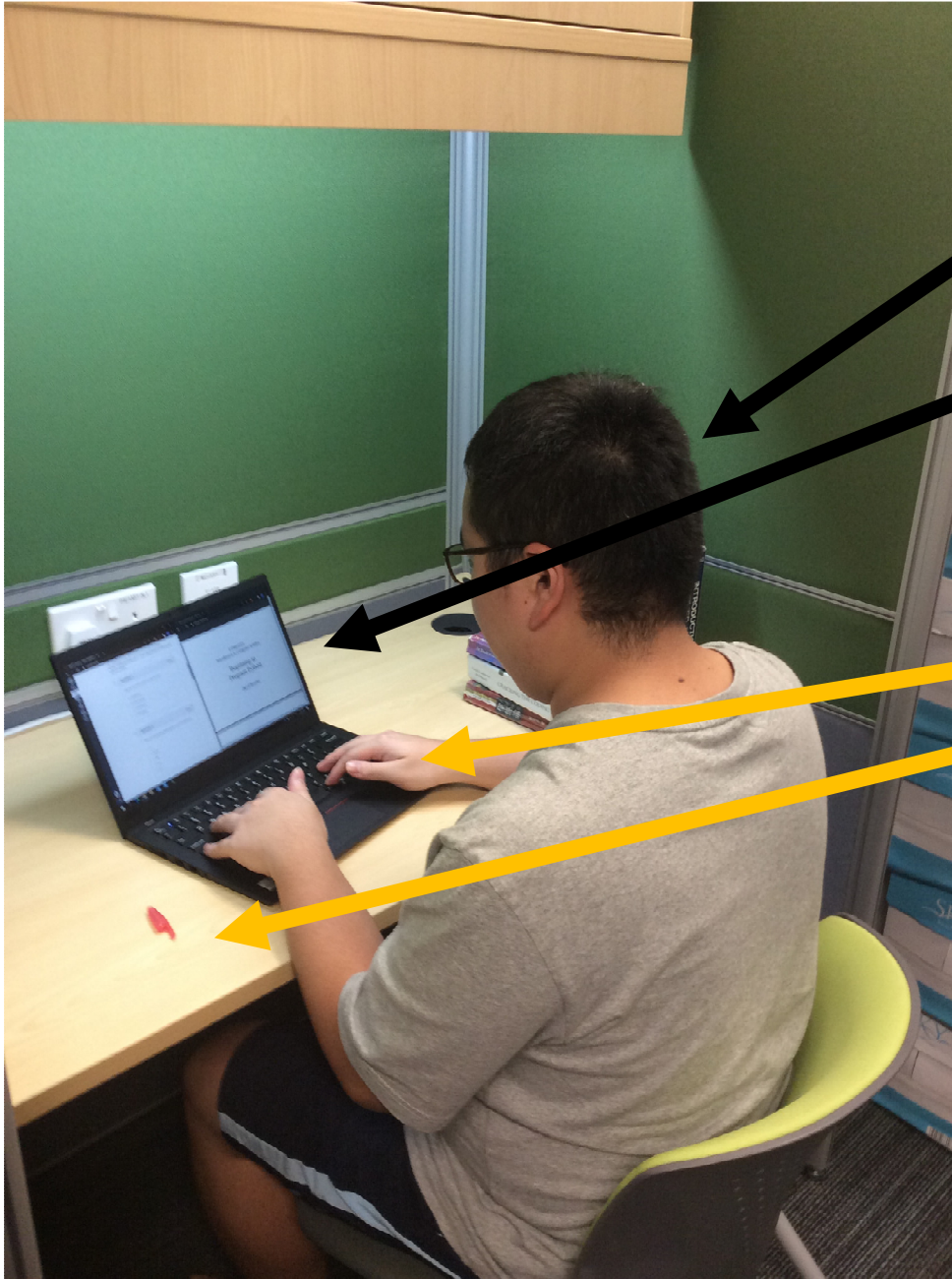
Getting Things Ready for Zoom

- Use the name shown on your HKUST card

- Do not use the Virtual Background feature

- Turn off your microphone

- Make sure you can hear the chat room sound
  - the invigilator will say things such as "the exam has started", "there are *X* minutes left", and so on

Use Zoom Video

- While you take the exam you will be observed via Zoom

- That means you need to use an external device with
  a camera, e.g. your mobile phone or a tablet,
  to show yourself while you are taking the quiz

- You must remain visible in Zoom during the exam
  e.g. you cannot leave

- Don't touch the device you are using for Zoom
  e.g. your phone/tablet during the exam

- These videos will be recorded and checked carefully

What Your Camera Must Show

The camera must show:
- your face (at least partially)
- the screen of the device where you are taking the Canvas quiz
- your hands
- your desk area

You need to install Zoom on the device which you will use to show your Zoom camera image

Another Example

The camera must show:
- your face (at least partially)
- the screen of the device where you are taking the Canvas quiz
- your hands
- your desk area

You need to install Zoom on the device which you will use to show your Zoom camera image

Programs You Can Use

- You can only use these things during the exam:
a browser such as Chrome, IDLE Python and Zoom

  - If you drag a PDF file e.g. notes
into Chrome it can be displayed in a tab

  - ITSC says there is a problem if you use the
Safari browser with the Canvas web site,
so don't use that browser

- Close all other programs

Use Python instead of a Calculator

- You cannot use a physical calculator

- You cannot use a calculator program
  on your computer

- **Use Python** for any calculations
  – for example, use the Python shell

Be Good

- Obviously, these are not allowed during the exam:
    - Direct communication with others
    - Indirect communication with others

- Invigilators will closely monitor the exam

- For anything inappropriate, action will be taken later

- Remember: there are strong penalties for cheating

After the Practice Midterm Exam

- We will mark your practice exam and release the marks a day or two after the practice exam

- We will also send you another PDF file which contains your practice exam questions together with the correct answers to your questions

- We will briefly discuss answers, probably in the following lecture

After the Midterm Exam

- We will mark your midterm exam and release the marks a couple of days after the midterm exam

- We will also send you another PDF file which contains your midterm exam questions together with the correct answers to your questions

- The questions and answers will be explained

Preparing for the Exam

- The exam is not really a test of memorisation,
  it is more of a test of understanding how to program

- One thing you can do is:
  - Go through the notes and make sure you understand them
  - Go through the labs and make sure you understand them (we won't release solutions)
  - Go through the interactive examples and make sure you understand them
  - Download the examples and run them, try amending them and check you understand them

Useful Things To be Released Soon

- A clickable index for the course material

- More interactive practice pages

- Previous midterm exams:
  - Lots of previous midterm exams will be released as interactive web pages so you can easily test yourself
  - We will also release 2 other exams in PDF format
  - There will be video discussion of every question

What the Midterm is Worth

- Remember that we will assess you at the end of semester using two different methods

- Here are the two assessments we will use for every student
  - Midterm 24%, lab projects 36%, final exam 40%
  - Midterm 0%, lab projects 42%, final exam 58%

- We will automatically use the best assessment for you at the end of semester

- If you don't do the midterm, you simply get zero