

The Secret Life of a Physics Tutor

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1 Physics 1 Workshop

October 30th

Dear Diary,

As this was my first tutoring session, I was very excited, but I also did not know what to expect, and whether I will enjoy it or not. Luckily, I overall did enjoy it. Being a tutorial, It was a 30-minute session, which is good for a first session. The biggest inconvenient from the session was that I did not have a print-out of the solutions to the questions, which was not a problem for a *how do I do this?* sort of question, but was a problem for the *what's the final answer?* questions - which were actually more common than the former. I, thus, did my best to scan the student's questions for errors rather than check the final answer to infer whether they've made any mistakes or not, and answer them based on that. At one point, I was not able to answer one such question because of the lack of the answer sheet, but I looked it up on my phone afterwards while the students were answering the assessed workshop questions in the second half, and told the student the answer after then.

Yours,

Husni

2 Physics 2 Tutorial

November 3rd

Dear Diary,

Today was my first second year physics thingy. I was more prepared as I printed out the solutions. I was also quite familiar with the topics today. There were a lot of tutors today; probably too many, as at any moment, half of us were doing nothing. Halfway through I decided to go around and ask people specifically if they have question - it turned out that most of them actually do have questions, but perhaps they were too shy to ask or too arrogant? to give up. There were some mistakes that we pointed out at the start of the tutorial. There was also a mistake in the solutions, almost everyone was confused so we worked together to figure it out. I don't know personally any physics 1 students but have some friends in physics 2 who i felt were more comfortable asking me questions. All in all it was a successful tutorial and I am at the same level of enthusiasm as I was last week. Next week I have 4 sessions, I also have an exam, but I hope that this wouldn't affect my performance and that I will be able to prepare well for all of them.

Yours,

Husni

3 Physics 1 Tutorial x2

October 30th

Dear Diary,

Since I have attended both morning and noon sessions of the P1 Tutorial on this day, I will write up a single entry for both, as this will allow me to compare and contrast them in a better way. For example, I noticed that a lot more people asked questions in the noon session rather than the morning session. Either because students are much more awake in the afternoon rather than 9 in the morning (I can vouch for that from personal experience as a student), or because us, the tutors, were more awake, and therefore, more inviting in regards to questions.

Yours,

Husni

4 Physics 1 DropIn

November 12th

Dear Diary,

Being a 2nd year direct entrant to the University of Glasgow, I have not had experienced this type of tutorials before as a student, so this was my first exposure to this type of tutorials. The student:tutor ratio was very close to one so every tutor was mostly helping one of the students, so there were longer and more meaningful questions. The longer interaction also helped with actually leading the students to the answer to discover it on their own, which proved more difficult than first expected in the other tutorials.

Yours,

Husni

5 Physics 1 Workshop

November 13th

Dear Diary,

Yours,

Husni

6 Physics 2 Tutorial

November 19th

Dear Diary,

This was the second P2 tutorial, and I still stand by the statement I made earlier that I enjoyed P2 tutorials over P1 ones; I believe because both the curriculum is still sort of relevant, and the academic maturity of the students is also closer to ours.

Yours,

Husni

7 Physics 1 Tutorial x2

February 8th

Dear Diary,

Yours,

Husni

8 Physics 2 Tutorial

February 24th

Dear Diary,

Yours,

Husni

9 Physics 1 Tutorial

March 7th

Dear Diary,

Yours,

Husni

10 Physics 1 Workshop

March 11th

Dear Diary,

Yours,

Husni