

Tips and advice

Exam formats

Tutorial 8

Tips — Before the exam

- ▶ **Practice using past exams**
- ▶ Flow of exam is same as assignment
- ▶ Open book — usually don't need to use the notes as exam is for the most part standalone
- ▶ Not expected to have detailed knowledge outside content of the course, only knowledge typically obtained by 4th year

Tips — Before the exam

- ▶ The level and depth of the answer we are looking for is reflected in the answer key of the past exams
- ▶ Articles covered in class are meant to demonstrate principles to help develop the thinking necessary for working through the exams, don't need to know the study details, etc
- ▶ Similarly for lecture notes, they are there for the concepts and the understanding, not necessary to memorize; exams are typically standalone

Tips — In the exam

- ▶ Don't panic!!
- ▶ Briefly scan exam
- ▶ Tie in metabolic pathways
- ▶ Don't take too long reading the exam/wait too long before writing your answers
- ▶ Answer each study consecutively
- ▶ Working through each question will help formulate the answers for the next questions

Tips — In the exam

- ▶ If you don't understand a *word*, ask for clarification
- ▶ Each figure/table is there for a reason
- ▶ Everything was include for a reason
- ▶ Bullet points are allowed, as long as the thought process is clear and logical and that the bullets connect with one another (e.g. point A to B to C, etc)
- ▶ Don't need to include p-values, just significance and direction
- ▶ Use short-hand to write faster (e.g. \uparrow to mean increase, ' $>$ ' to mean greater than, etc.)

Tips — In the exam

- ▶ Length of answer does not = higher mark! Longer answers often reflect lack of focus/bigger hand-writing
- ▶ Include the source of data (e.g. “It was found to be higher (Table 1)”)
- ▶ Don't just randomly write answers, or what you think are answers! Take the time to think through the question, formulate a logical answer, then write. Randomly writing may in fact reduce your mark as it will show lack of logic and focus. Take your time and think through the answers
- ▶ Include all the variables (for most of the questions) in your answer.
- ▶ The flow and logic of your answer is very important and may often increase your mark even if the answer isn't exactly what we are looking for