

About quizzes and exams

Here is about all you need to know about quizzes and exams:

1. Lecture plan gives information on what material will be covered. Everything within this set is a fair game - lecture material, section material, problem set material and textbook and other required readings material.
2. Format: there will be open questions and problems. Similar to the problem sets, but no data assignments and articles to read during the test (there could be references to articles you were assigned in the past and questions regarding the data you have collected in the past). True/false/explain questions require an explanation (zero credit for just “true” or “false” answers). For the problems, show your calculations, this would help you get partial credit if final answer is wrong.
3. Nothing outside the allotted space will be graded – make your answers brief and to the point.
4. The number of points will always equal the number of minutes you have, so make sure you budget your time cleverly, and do not spend more than 5 minutes on a 5-point question.
5. You will be allowed to have the following items on your desk: pens (no erasable pens allowed; bring multiple color pens for clearer graphs), pencils and erasers (however all answers should be eventually in ink, you can use pencil for sketches), a drink (alcohol-free). When you come to the test, do not take anything else out of your bag.

You will not need blue books, as the space for the answers will be provided. We will give you scrap paper if you need, you are not allowed to use your own, and you will have to turn it in along with your exam (it will not be graded, however).

6. If you miss a test, you need your college dean’s excuse in order to take a make-up. No exceptions.
7. If you are late for the test, you do not get additional time, unless you have a very appealing (and documented) excuse.
8. If you require special arrangements for the test, let me or your TA know ahead of time.
9. You have 24 hours after tests are returned to you to file complaints about grading. It has to be written and attached to the original of your test: it should include a clear description of why you think your answer has been graded incorrectly. The answers to the test will be provided *after* the deadline for complaints. Note that the *entire* test will be regarded and not only the problem you describe – it is possible that you will have a lower grade after the re-grading than before. There will be no re-grading for the final, exception is incorrectly added points.

Complaints can be e-mailed to galina.hale@yale.edu or put in my mailbox (Hale) in 28 Hillhouse ave. *before the 24-hour deadline.*

Wisdom from my undergrad math prof:

“Exam requires you to think and solve hard problems in a short time, which means you will be working really hard, and will be punished for all the mistakes you make. Therefore it is no good if you are tired when you come to the exam. Best way to prepare is not to study all night, but to have a cup of chamomile tea in the evening and get a good night sleep. It also helps if you have studied the material regularly throughout the course.”

I add, there will be more thinking than memorization required in order to do well. So, rest and relax.

Good luck! (This can never hurt)

Galina Hale