

Informatics 1B, 2008
School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh

Data and Analysis

Exam Information 2008

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The exam

Data & Analysis will be examined by a 2 hour exam on

- Saturday 10th May 2008, 09.30–11.30.

The location is still to be finalized.

Important: If you cannot attend a Saturday examination for good reason (e.g. a religious reason), inform your Director of Studies of this *as soon as possible*.

Structure of exam

Three questions. You are asked to answer all of them. The marks and topics are divided roughly as:

1. Structured data [40 marks]
2. Semistructured data [30 marks]
3. Unstructured data [30 marks]

There may be some cross-referencing between different topics within the questions.

Past exam papers

These are a good revision source. (**Warning:** the on-line solutions are not always correct. Please seek advice if you need clarification on a particular solution.)

There have been some changes to the course material this year, so not all past exam questions are relevant.

The general rule is that the first two (out of three) Data & Analysis questions are still relevant to this year's course.

Specifically, the 12 relevant questions are:

- 2005 exams: questions 1 & 2
- 2006 and 2007 exams: questions 4 & 5

New material

The material in notes 5–7, on SQL, XML and XQUERY, is new this year.

Examples of the kind of question to expect on this material are in:

- Tutorial exercises 3–5
- The coursework assignment

For SQL and XML there are also good exercises in the handouts from the “Database Management Systems” book.

For (XPath) path expressions and XQUERY, the on-line tutorials and material linked from the Data & Analysis webpage provide a good source of examples.

Length of exam

Appropriate for a 2 hour exam.

Roughly: Each question will be up to twice as long as individual Data & Analysis questions in previous years' exams.

Roughly: The overall length of the exam will be approximately compatible with the overall length of the coursework assignment.

The above comparisons are necessarily **approximate**

Exam strategy (obvious but important)

If you get stuck on a question: **don't** waste too much time on it; **do** go on to the next question instead; **don't** give up!

Help with revision

If you would like help with revision (e.g., if you have questions about the lecture notes, tutorial exercises, previous exam questions/answers), please try:

- InfBase, see:

`https://wiki.inf.ed.ac.uk/INFBASE/WebHome`

for private help, and for group assistance

- The Informatics 1 newsgroup, for public discussion
- If necessary, me:

`Alex.Simpson@ed.ac.uk`

or your tutor

Feedback on Informatics 1B

This is always very useful, and especially this year since there have been several changes to the course.

At the *very least* please fill in the ITO questionnaire available from the very bottom of the Informatics 1 webpage.

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THANKS, AND GOOD LUCK!