

Informatics 1, 2009
School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh

Data and Analysis

Exam Information 2009

Alex Simpson

The exam

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

- Monday 11th May 2009, 14.30–16.30.

Location: **McEwan Hall**

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!

Structure of exam

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

Question 1 Part I of course [40 marks]

Question 2 Parts II–III of course [35 marks]

Question 3 Parts IV–V of course [25 marks]

Note however, there may be some cross-referencing between different parts of the course within the questions.

The exam will be similar in structure and difficulty to the Week 9 coursework assignment.

Past exam papers

These are a good revision source.

However:

- You cannot assume that questions in this year's exam will be similar to questions that have appeared in previous exams.
- The on-line solutions for previous exams are not always correct. Please seek advice if you need clarification on a particular solution.
- There have been some changes to the course material over the past two years, so not all past exam questions are relevant.

2005–7 Informatics 1B exams

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

2008 Informatics 1B: Data & Analysis exams

There are 3 papers from 2008: the May exam, the August resit exam, and also a mock exam (available from Data & Analysis homepage).

In all three exams, part (c) of question 2 (on the XQuery language) is no longer relevant this year. All other material is relevant.

Examinable material

The rule is that the material presented in the lectures (see lecture log) is examinable. However, there are exceptions:

- In part III, it is the *principles* of corpora that are examinable, rather than the details of individual corpora. Similarly, you should understand the principles underlying pos-tagging and syntactic annotation, but you neither need to know the linguistics, nor the details of specific tag sets. Nevertheless, you *are* expected to be familiar with the way in which corpus metadata is encoded in XML (for example, in the British National Corpus).
- In Part V, (see next slide)

- In part V, you are not expected to remember the contents of the critical values tables. However, should know how to use a critical values table. Also you are expected to know the formulas for the the various statistics covered, and to be able to calculate these formulas.
(Calculators are not allowed in the exam. But exam calculations will always be designed so that calculators are unnecessary.)
- The material parenthesised in the lecture log is not examinable.

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

- Your tutor.
- If necessary, me:

`Alex.Simpson@ed.ac.uk`

Feedback on the course

This is always very useful, and can lead to 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!