

Informatics 1, 2012
School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh

Data and Analysis

Exam Information 2012

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The exam

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

- Tuesday 8th May 2012, 09:30–11:30.

Location: **Playfair Library**

Always double-check exam times with the official exam timetable maintained by Registry (follow the link from the Inf1-DA course webpage).

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 (*structured data*) [40 marks]

Question 2 Part II of course (*semistructured data*) [35 marks]

Question 3 Part III of course (*unstructured data*) [25 marks]

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

The Week 10 coursework assignment was based on a previous exam paper. This year's exam will be similar (*but not identical*) in structure and difficulty to this. *It will probably seem a little bit tougher.*

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 changes to the course content over the 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

However part-questions on CQP can be disregarded, since this is not examinable this year.

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 2007–8 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.

2009 & 2010 Informatics 1: Data & Analysis exams

All questions are relevant.

2011 Informatics 1: Data & Analysis exam

The subquestions on CQP in Question 2 of the main exam can be disregarded, since CQP is not examinable this year.

Examinable material

The rule is that all material covered in the lecture slides, as presented and expanded upon in the lectures, is examinable.

The supplementary material presented as “lecture breaks” in many lectures is not examinable.

Please refer to the course blog for further detail of what was covered in individual lectures.

Examinable material on corpora

In Part II, 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).

Since the CQP query language was used only in a tutorial and not covered in lectures, this is not examinable material this year.

Examinable material on statistics

In Part III, you are not expected to remember the contents of the critical values tables. However, should know how to use a critical values table.

You are expected to know the formulas for the the various statistics covered, and to be able to calculate these formulas. Although, in practice, if a formula is exceptionally complicated, you might be given it in the exam question, and asked to be able to explain it.

Calculators are not allowed in the exam this year. But exam calculations will always be designed so that calculators are unnecessary.

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`

- 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.

So please fill in the (anonymous) course questionnaire handed out in today's lecture before you leave.

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FINALLY, GOOD LUCK!