

Student Assessment Resources

Exams

What are exams and how do they help me learn?

You may be assessed on your achievement of module/programme learning outcomes through examinations. Exams can include a variety of formats, including short-answer questions, long-answer essay style questions, problem solving questions, multiple-choice questions and/or extended choice questions. Exams are primarily used as a form of assessment OF learning. However, in some cases exams or quizzes may be arranged for the purpose of allowing you to assess your achievement of learning rather than being graded; this would be an example of assessment AS learning.

Written exams are designed not only to allow you to demonstrate your knowledge, but also the extent of your understanding and ability to make connections, and that you have understood and thoroughly engaged with the relevant learning outcomes for the module.



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Which Graduate Attributes will this assessment help me develop?



Exams can help you to develop and improve some or all of the **Graduate Attributes**, depending on your experience and skill level, and the assessment criteria. Here are some examples:

- To Think Independently
 - For example, using your judgement to determine how to best prepare for an exam and to answer questions.
- To Communicate Effectively
 - For instance, long answer essay questions require you to concisely communicate your knowledge of a topic within a defined period of time.
- To Develop Continuously
 - Successful exam preparation involves consistently attending lectures, staying on top of readings, revision, and review.
- To Act Responsibly
 - In order to prepare effectively for exams, you must learn and practise good time management skills and self-regulation.

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What is expected of me?

You will need to understand your subject, revise and prepare well. Information regarding exam method, criteria and regulations is usually provided in your course handbook; it will be your responsibility to understand and comply with your lecturer's exam format, and to self-regulate your study behaviour to prepare accordingly. Incorporate revision into your study routine rather than trying to cram shortly before an exam.

Further information

<http://student-learning.tcd.ie/undergraduate/topics/exams/>

