

Exam Preparation

LEVEL 1

November meeting

Across their Level 1 curriculum, students will experience a range of different types of assessment. Some courses will conclude with a traditional end-of-course unseen exam; others will have 100% coursework assessment. Students taking a 6th-century course, for example, will have 100% coursework assessment and no exam. Some courses have exam exemption if students achieve a certain level of marks in their coursework.

Most students, however, will have to take one or more exams in the December and May diets. It may be helpful for Level 1 students to have an opportunity to discuss revising and preparing for exams, including what is involved in the exam process. Some students worry more about the logistics of the exam process than the actual exams themselves.

Exam revision:

Ideally, revision is a planned process! It is generally not a good idea to leave revision until the last minute. While some students do seem to thrive on last-minute 'cramming', it is widely accepted that for most students this is not the best way to approach an exam.

Potential discussion areas include: What does revision involve? What works? What might you try? What resources are there to help?

Some suggested resources for revision and exam techniques:

- **Course-specific information** about the format of each exam should be given by the relevant course coordinator/team.
- **Past exam papers** are available through the [Exam Papers Database](#). These can guide students as to the type of exam questions to expect and can be used as timed practice questions before the exam. Students should check that the past papers are still a relevant example of the exam that they will be taking.
- **Revision/exam techniques sessions** will be offered by courses in the Structured Revision Week.
- **ACHIEVE generic resources** on [Revision and Exam Skills](#) for students include tips on planning and managing revision and exams.

- **Student Learning Service** [Revision and Exam Techniques Workshops](#) will run during November-December 2014. All workshop places will be bookable in advance through the [SLS website](#).

Some points for students to consider:

- Which of their courses have exams?
- How long is each exam?
- What is the format of each? Examples: Will there be multiple-choice / short answer / essay questions?
- How many questions will they have to answer?
- Will there be a choice of questions?
- How will the exam be marked? Will there be equal weighting given to each answer?

Exams: the process

How does it work at Aberdeen?

- Students receive their exam timetables through their Student Portal, which include the time, date and location of each exam. Students with special provisions/adjustments (extra time/use of computer/own room etc.) are informed of their particular arrangements. There is exam timetable information for students on the [Infohub](#) website:
- Students are advised to arrive at the exam location in good time as they are normally admitted into the exam hall/room approximately 10 minutes before the start of the exam.
- Students are not allowed to join the exam after the first 30 minutes.
- Students will be given all necessary stationery (exam booklets/graph paper) but must bring their own pens and pencils.
- Food is not allowed; bottled water can be taken into the exam room.
- Mobile phones must be turned off and left with bags/coats in the designated place in the exam room. Phones cannot be used as clocks / calculators or dictionaries.
- It is sometimes possible for students, for whom English is not their first language, to take a paper copy of a dictionary into an exam but they should check in advance that this is permitted. No electronic dictionaries may be used.
- Students are not permitted to leave the exam room during the last 30 minutes of the exam.
- [Course results](#), which will appear as a single [Common Grading Scale \(CGS\)](#) grade for each course, will be issued to students through their student portal during February. The pass grade for all courses is D3.