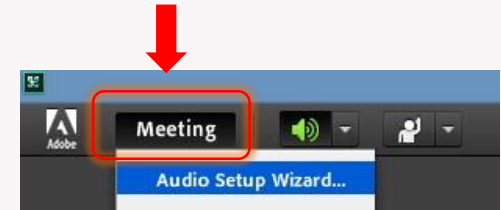


Audio set up

We recommend 'audio set up wizard'



If you want to be able to talk later:

Click on the microphone button to enable it. It should turn green.



Click again on the microphone icon to mute it (will have a line through it when muted).



*Mobile devices look different

Pre session polls

What level of study are you?

- Access
- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3
- Postgraduate

What would you consider is your main area of study?

- Arts
- Languages (English & other)
- Social sciences
- Business and law
- Science
- Engineering or technology
- Maths
- Health sciences
- Education
- Sports
- OTHER

What module are you studying?

Important note

- We use polls a lot in SHL as a way of enabling you to interact and give your opinions, as well as to help us to know who we are reaching, what you like / don't like, what you are studying and how you are getting on.
- All polls are anonymous and no other student can see what you write. We can broadcast these anonymous results so you can see what your fellow students think, but no answers are attributable to names.

Exams - 2

Preparing for the exam that you are sitting

Session purpose

- **Is for:**
- Give some guidance about preparing for exams
- Allow you to ask questions about approaching exams
- Provide a space to share ideas and connect with other students
- **Is not for:**
- Giving any exam answers
- Providing any module specific advice

Initial polls

Did you come to our exam session 1?

- Yes
- No (had another commitment)
- No (didn't know about it)

Have you met your commitment from exam session 1?

- Yes (I am a good student!)
- No (I forgot)
- No (wasn't able to for other reason than forgetting)
- N/A (didn't attend exam-1)

What have you done between the sessions to meet your commitment?

Session plan

- Writing the right stuff
- Type of exam question
- Preparing yourself before and on the day
- Exam practicalities

Recap of session 1

The story so far....

Exam 1

We looked at:

- Revising including importance of themes and being specific
- Time management
- Using the specimen exam paper / past exam papers
- Seen exams
- Predicting what will come up

Poll

- What would be the main take home advice that those who came to session 1 would give to those who didn't come?

Writing the right stuff

Making the most of limited time

You can't write it all!

- This is the key in approaching exam questions. There IS enough time to write everything if you are well prepared, but being prepared will involve making sure you KNOW the information and can get it out of your head onto the paper in the right format.
- It is not about writing anything and everything that you have read in the module

Planning properly

- Last week we talking about having a revision plan but have you thought of having an exam plan?

Poll

- Can you suggest any different ways that you could tackle your upcoming exam?

Having an exam plan

- Complete the part you are most confident with first then the next most and leave the one you are most unsure about until last
- This will boost confidence and hopefully bank marks
- Alternatively do the part you can do most easily (might not be most confident)
- Write the essay plan even if you don't write the essay straight away
- Think about the overall time and divide it up to ensure you have enough time

Re-planning option

- Initial 'brain dump'
- If you do your essay plan first in the brain dump style then you can revisit it between other questions to think about whether it is the most appropriate way to answer the question.
- Strim out excess irrelevance
- Include elements that you have now remembered
- Make sure that everything you planned to include is actually relevant and what you are being asked to cover (you don't have time to write gubbins!)

Exam timing example

- 3 hour exam example (exam 100% of OES)
 - 8 short answer questions = 40 marks
 - 1 medium length = 30 marks
 - 1 essay = 30 marks
 - 50 minutes for each section with some padding and reading / checking time e.g. 5 mins per SAQ with spare.
 - 50 +50+50 allows 15 mins initial reading & 15 mins to check everything at the end
- Do your maths to ensure you don't spend too long on one part to the detriment of others

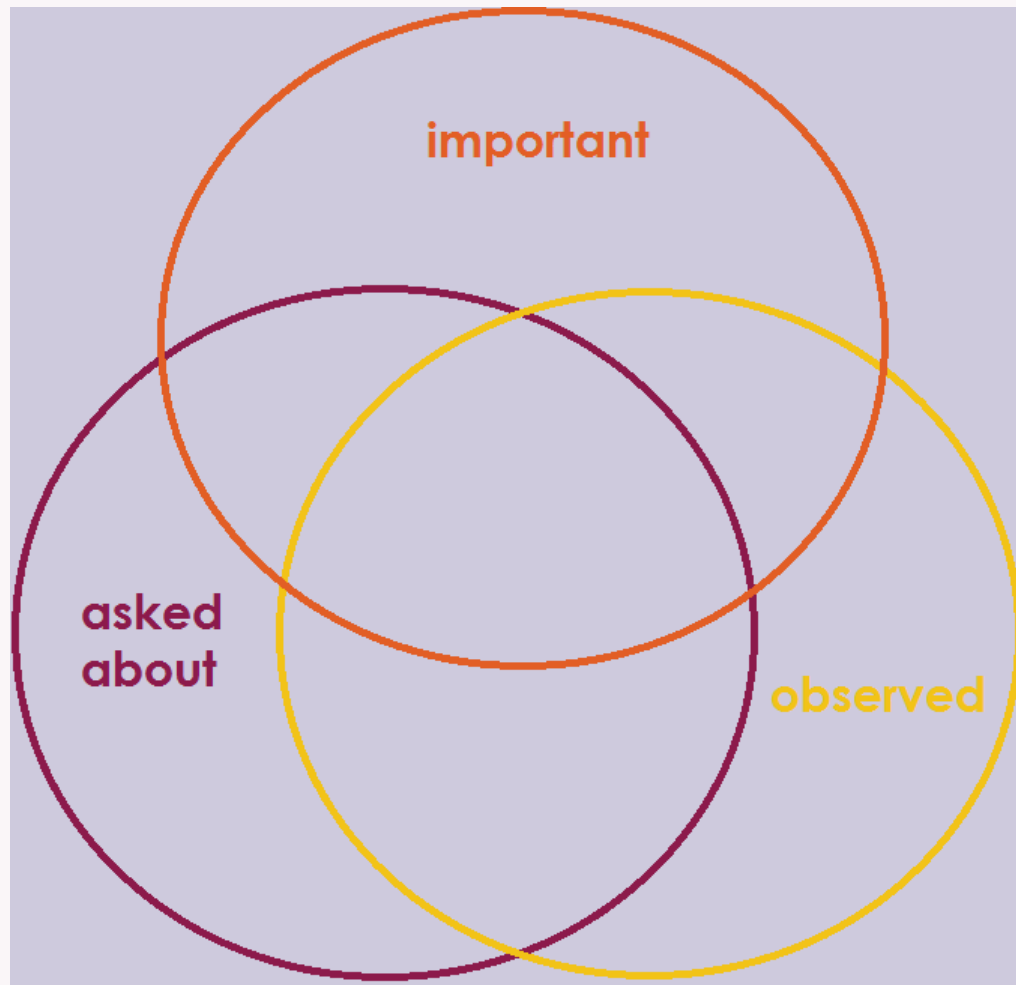
Exam timing example

- 3 hour exam example (exam 75% of OES)
 - 1 multipart longer question= 25 marks (~35%)
 - 1 multipart shorter question= 15 marks (~20%)
 - 1 essay = 35 marks (~45%)
 - 70-80 mins for essay including plan
 - 50-60 mins for longer question
 - 30-40 mins for shorter question(the spare minutes are for checking everything and reading the paper)
- Do your maths to ensure you don't spend too long on one part to the detriment of others

Remember the module

- Perhaps obvious but what is the module about?
 - French writing will have different skills to French listening
 - An exam reporting on your work experience or a case you have worked on will be different that a series of specific factual questions.
 - Don't mix up information from different modules if you are studying more than one or have studied others previously – you are being assessed on your understanding of **this** module

Remember...



ONLY

- Write what you are asked about
- Don't scattergun or brain dump as the final answer (see re-planning earlier)
- Think of the application of knowledge

Types of exam question

Knowing how to approach them

Poll

Can anyone suggest some different types of question (not subjects)

SAQ

Short answer questions

- These involve specific factual information
- Some may require application
- Depending on module may have a set number of marks for all or may be variable

Fill in the gaps:

'The thrifty _____ hypothesis emphasizes the way in which an _____ trigger, such as poor fetal nutrition, can alter the course of development so as to make obesity more likely. By contrast, the thrifty _____ hypothesis suggests that genetic differences between groups of individuals make obesity a more likely consequence when they are exposed to an energy-dense modern diet. Recent advances in our understanding of the genetics and the hormonal control of feeding has led to specific explanations of some causes of obesity. _____ is a hormone produced by adipose tissue that acts on the brain to inhibit feeding behaviour and mutations in the gene for this hormone can cause obesity. Palatable foods, especially those high in fat and carbohydrate, can be a potent stimuli to eat and enhance this effect by causing the release of the neurotransmitter _____ in the brain which is associated with reward.'

mutation, frame shift, genotype, phenotype, GABA, dopamine, leptin, insulin, glucagon, environmental

Look carefully at the words suggested as there may be some similar topics but only 5 correct words to include.

Draw and answer

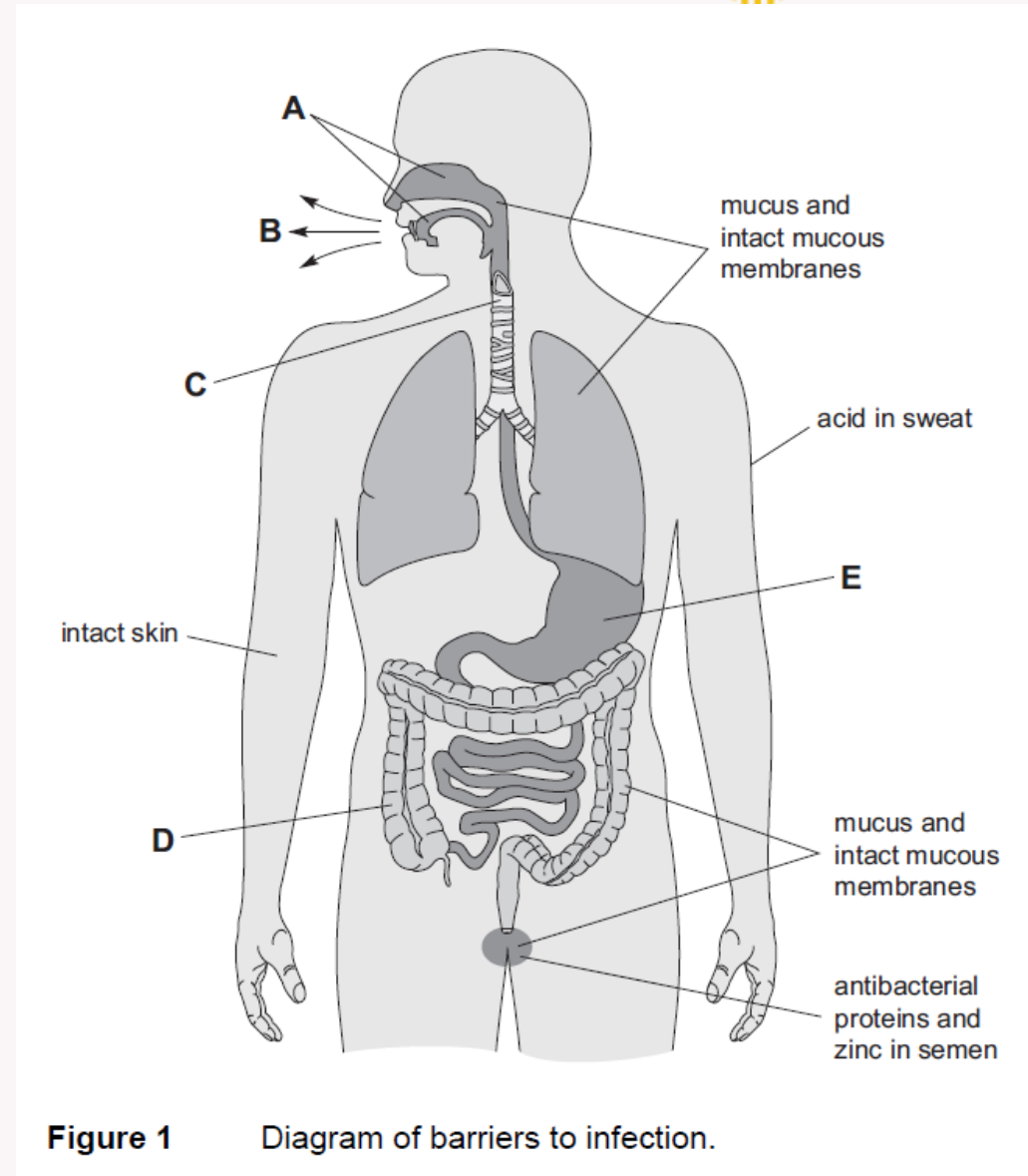
Action potentials carry information along nerves as a wave of electrical activity. However, in order for this signal to be transmitted from cell to cell, it has to be converted into a chemical signal. Draw a diagram of a synapse and list the key features involved in chemical neurotransmission.

Draw a flow diagram illustrating the role of physiological negative feedback in the regulation of the thyroid hormones. In your flow diagram you need to include the structures listed below and correctly identify the hormones or releasing factors released by them.

Structures: *anterior pituitary, thyroid gland, hypothalamus*

- All diagrams need to be legible and carefully labelled

Look carefully at what is being labelled and be specific



List / name / state

List three cell-mediated defence mechanisms used by the innate immune system.

List five functions of the musculo-skeletal system.

Name two types of photoreceptor cell found in the eye,

What was the name given to the hypothesis developed by the Southampton Group

State one 'housekeeping' function of cortisol.

- List means specific facts, not an explanation or detailed information. Likewise state
- Name means give the actual name as stated in the book
- Check spelling!

Define

Define the following terms:

- (i) innate immunity
- (ii) epitope.

Define the terms phenotype and genotype.

Define the terms oligospermia and aspermia.

- These would be bold terms and usually from the glossary. They don't need to be word perfect but you need to cover the main points.

Briefly describe / explain...

Briefly describe the digestion of carbohydrates and how they are absorbed into the blood.

- (a) Briefly, explain why eating a chocolate bar results in an immediate burst of energy, whereas eating a potato containing the same number of carbohydrate calories does not. *(3 mark)*
- (b) Explain how high levels of blood sugar can be harmful to body tissues. *(2 marks)*

- Read the question carefully and describe / explain (only) what you are asked to (don't scattergun)
- Address all parts of the question

Multipart questions

- These may all be grouped in a theme but have sub parts (a, b, ci, cii etc)
- There will usually be question rubric to contextualise – READ IT!
- Don't miss out any parts
- May involve different types of skills
- May involve follow on

Essays

- You know the score here 😊

Preparing yourself

Before and on the day

Poll

What is your top tip for preparing yourself for a written exam?

Know what you are doing

- Revising the module
- Revising only the module
- Know what to expect in the exam
- Get used to writing and exam conditions

Weeks before...

- Get revising
- Get practising
- Get active and healthy

Days before

- Check all details
- Test yourself
- See what are your memory holes and try to fill them

The day before

- Try to relax and sleep!
- Prepare everything practical the evening before
- Revisit the sticking points and see whether they are better but don't get bogged down on them – resolve to leave what worries you rather than fixating

Exam practicalities

What when how where with ...

When

- Exams are on a set day and time, within a timetable published many months in advance.
- <https://help.open.ac.uk/exam-periods>

Exam arrangements

- You will all have been given a link to the exam arrangements booklet at https://help.open.ac.uk/students/_data/documents/assessment/exam-arrangements-2018.pdf
- This is also available through studenthome.

Practicalities – on the day

- Location
- Time
- What can you take in?
- Essential provisions
- What to do if....

Poll

- What can you eat in an exam?

Location

- You will be sent details of where your exam is several weeks in advance
- Do you know how to get there?
- Train / bus / bike / walk / car?
- Timetables – do you know when the bus / train gets there?
- Is there a car / bike park?
- Do you have to pay for parking? (do you have enough money with you for enough time?)

Exam date & time

- There are morning and afternoon sessions on each exam day so make sure you know which one yours is in
- Morning is 10am -1pm
- Afternoon is 2.30-5.30pm
- *If you have 2 exams on the same day in the same time slot you need to contact your SST immediately to discuss arrangements*
- *If you have 2 exams on the same day in the 2 different time slots you will have to sit them both*

Timing

- Make sure you leave plenty of time to get to the exam centre, allowing for all contingencies
- You cannot go in to the exam centre early and you will not get extra time if you arrive late, and may find you are not allowed into the exam room immediately.

What can you take in

- Valid ID *check the format acceptable carefully as one of the most common reasons for delayed results is that the student didn't provide appropriate ID so there will be a delay in confirmation of identity*
- There are module dependent items so you will have to check your own details for this as we can't cover all possibilities. E.g. some modules allow a seen paper, source book etc. **It is your responsibility to know what you can take in for your own module**
- Calculators depend on the module so you need to carefully check

What can't you take in

- No electronic or communication devices. This includes smartwatches or trackers / music players. In the nicest possible way you may think you are too important to be out of communication from your child / friend / social media for the duration but **this is an exam** and you have to be. You will need to specify someone else that can do whatever you normally do in terms of caring responsibilities
- No e-cigarettes
- Correction fluid e.g. Tippex
- E-readers and thesauri

Provisions

- A small amount of food and drink – all silent (no cans to pop open or fizzy drinks that might fizz over and no rustling sweetie wrappers!)
- Pen AND pencil with several spares *you can't assume you can borrow a spare pen if yours runs out*
- Essential medication (*that you would genuinely not be able to last the 3 hours without*) but check regulations for containers in case they contain prohibited information. If unsure contact SST

What to do if...

- You are ill the night before – contact your SST immediately, you may be asked to provide a doctor's evidence
- You are ill during the exam- contact the invigilator, more details in the exam arrangements booklet
- You miss your transport there – get there ASAP and prepare to do the exam in a shortened time *and kick yourself for not paying attention to the advice to allow for contingencies!*

Sitting the exam

Don't
panic

Sitting the exam

Whilst you are waiting to start...

- Complete all the necessary paperwork including signing the desk record
- Have your ID available to be checked without being disturbed

Once you start

- Read the paper through carefully
- Stick to your plan

Exam marking

- This is done by experienced tutors but not your allocated tutor.
- The marker **will not know you**
- You have to be crystal clear and signpost your answer
- You can't expect the marker to 'just know' what you mean
- You need to signpost to show your understanding
- Markers will mark a large number of scripts in a short time so you need to make it clear and easy for them to award you the marks.

Final words

- Exams are about coherently conveying the information that is relevant.
- They are a remarkably short time where you will need to hand write this information and really convince the person marking that you know your module and you have carefully selected the relevant appropriate information.

Thank you for coming!

Live studio sessions Friday May 25th

Understanding Brexit 9.30-12.30

All things exams 1-3 pm

See you there!

Past student hub live online sessions [here](#)

Visit us at <http://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/>

Send us feedback at studenthub@open.ac.uk

View past (live) recordings on www.youtube.com/thestudenthublive

Final polls

Because I came to this session I am feeling

- More confident about approaching my exam
- About the same about approaching my exam
- Less confident about approaching my exam

Please complete the feedback poll

- Because I came tonight before my exam I will....