

What are SHL workshops?



- Studenthublive is non modular and focuses on study skills relevant to higher education
- This means all sessions are skills based and are not subject based. We cannot provide subject/faculty related sessions
- SHL workshops do not take the place of tutorials provided by your modules
- All events are always advertised on our website along with studenthome news, social media channels and careers sources
- All events are bookable; workshops do fill up as they are popular

Online workshop basics



- Polls are anonymous to other participants but the chat box will have your logged in name associated with your comments during the live session.
- All online sessions are recorded and available to view on catch up on a public facing website.
- Slides are available to download during the session and from <https://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/content/preparing-and-producing-your-best-ema-2-may-2024>

Today's workshop



- This is a structured workshop to help you think about how to tackle an upcoming EMA
- We use illustrations and examples to get you thinking, particularly about the difference between a TMA and an EMA
- There is a lot of interaction so please be ready to answer polls (questions) or add to chat pod during the session
- We can not give module or subject specific advice

Please be aware



- These sessions are large scale
- They are very busy
- There is lots of interaction
- They are not the same as other tutorials
- You can maximise slides on your own screen by clicking the icon (this will hide the chat)



Inclusivity



- We welcome all students at our workshops. Please do be aware that they can be very busy and some students may struggle with the non scripted nature. Slides are available to download within the live session and from the event page on the studenthublive website to follow along or prepare for what will come up.

Please

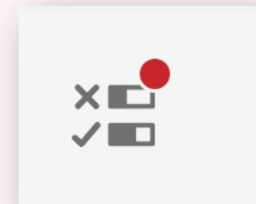


- Do NOT share any personal information in the chat pod during the session
- On the recording names will be anonymised to user number
- However if you type anyone's full name or any other personal information in the chat pod it can be seen by everybody and it would also show up on the recording so we would not be able to make the recording available

What do you want to learn?

Using the short answer poll provided please say what you are hoping to learn from today's session

(If you are on a mobile device remember you need to tap into the polling option)



To come back to these slides after completing a poll click on the share pod slides icon



Preparing for and producing your best EMA

First thoughts



Have you done an OU EMA before?

- Yes (one)
- Yes (two)
- Yes (3+)
- No never!

Please use the poll to select the answer that applies to you

Terminology



- We are going to use the term EMA throughout today although it also refers to emTMA which functions essentially the same – e.g. larger final piece of assessed work
- EMA is an end of module assignment
- emTMA is an end of module TMA
- They differ somewhat – mainly in who marks them – emTMA is your own tutor
- Marks for both come at the very end of the module with your final module grade

Practicalities

When, what is it, what is it worth?

Timing



When is your EMA due?

- 3rd week May (13/5-17/5)
- 4th week May (20/5-24/5)
- Last week May (Mon 27/5-31/5)
- 1st week June (3/6 -7/6)
- 2nd week June (10/6 – 15/6)
- Other date
- I don't have an EMA due in the near future

Time management



- First things first – when is your EMA due?
- How much time will it take to do?
- Have you allowed contingency time for anything going wrong?
- Consider planning quite tightly using some of the resources available at <https://help.open.ac.uk/planning-and-prioritising>

Time management 1

21	22	23	24	25 WORKING DEADLINE FOR MOST WORK	26
28	29 OWN DEADLINE DATE	30	31 EMA DUE		

Create your own deadline(s) to work to at least a couple of days before the fixed deadline. Aim for this. Don't work knowing that you won't keep to it. It's for emergencies only

Time management 2



- EMAs have fixed deadlines. The cut off is noon on the deadline day (there is the standard grace period with no penalty until midnight)
- Some modules may have a penalty period for submission – CHECK
- Tutors cannot authorise extensions and if they happen extensions are extremely rare and only for serious unexpected extenuating circumstances, e.g. hospitalisation.
- It is YOUR responsibility to make sure you know your deadline and plan appropriately

How much is the EMA worth?



How much is your EMA worth in terms of your overall module grade? Please use the short answer poll pod to say

Poll time



Do you know whether your EMA involves additional activities other than the main questions?

- It doesn't
- Yes I think so, not sure yet
- Yes it does, I have a clear idea of what they are but haven't started yet
- Yes it does, I am well on the way to doing them

Planning to complete it all



- Some EMAs are a series of questions just from one EMA document, others require you to undertake activities from a variety of places and combine them together at the end
- You need to ensure you complete all parts of the EMA
- There may be different amounts of time to dedicate to different questions – look at marks available

Planning logically



- This links to time management, but don't spend as much time on a 3 mark question as on a 30 mark question, it isn't worth it
- Use the number of marks as an indication of how much is needed

EMA 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 and understanding
- You can't expect the marker to 'just know' what you mean
- 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.

Considering an EMA

Rather than the TMAs you have done

How is an EMA different?



Assuming you have looked at your upcoming EMA can you see a way that it is different from the TMAs you have done?

Please use the poll available to give your answer

How might the EMA be different?



Some of our suggestions:

- More questions
- Less didactic instructions
- More mixed style questions (using several skills)
- Using information from various places within the module
- Might involve an activity e.g. search, evaluation, project
- (probably) won't be marked by your allocated tutor

TMA v EMA



- In many modules the EMA is worth more of the summative marks, e.g. the marks that count towards your final grade than any single TMA
- TMAs and EMAs are different, although TMAs will build towards the EMA.
- EMAs are looking for a higher level of understanding than TMAs, they are after all assessing the WHOLE module

Reading the question



Do refer to the really understanding questions session for help with this, we don't have time to cover today

<https://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/content/really-understanding-questions-13-march-2024>

That session mentioned unpacking the question, considering material and what you are writing about

Broad questions



- Some modules have very broad questions or ask you to select your own topic / subject / theme from within the module to be able to answer the final question
- Look at what you need to evidence
- Don't just choose the first possible – check it allows you to answer the question
- How many examples are you asked for?
- Look for the PEE concept to back up the evidence

Scenario



- Write a 1000 word essay about a skill that you have developed as a result of attending an SHL workshop or broadcast.
- Using the poll pod available suggest how you might approach a question like this. We can then look at the variety of approaches and also consider how some people can narrow down or not

My scenario ideas



- Developed time management as heard different ideas about what to do when, e.g. using the small spare times and focusing on times when more efficient, muting notifications, delegating tasks
- General but can be PEE as there are specific points to be made with the evidence on why they are relevant
- I changed the vacuuming to Thursday 7pm rather than Thursday 10am as I was too tired to study in the evening but I don't need to be awake to vacuum

Depth V breadth



- Give your examples enough space to provide the evidence.
- Don't include 10 examples if asked for 4 – there won't be more marks and you will probably be too nonspecific in each so won't get as high marks.
- Does each example link to the overall topic enough?
- Have you covered different sides of the story or been bias and ignored one?

Actualise information



- Bring together the thread and themes and pin them down into something you can work with
- If it isn't clear to you, it won't be clear to the marker

Wellbeing and managing yourself

Give your brain the best chance

Feelings word cloud



- Using the option to type in where it says enter word here say **What is the main emotion you feel when you consider your upcoming EMA?**
- Note that these need to be single words rather than phrases, if you press the space button your first word will go through. Phrases can be entered using _ or – but bear in mind a word cloud is built from common answers so long phrases are unlikely to be common 😊

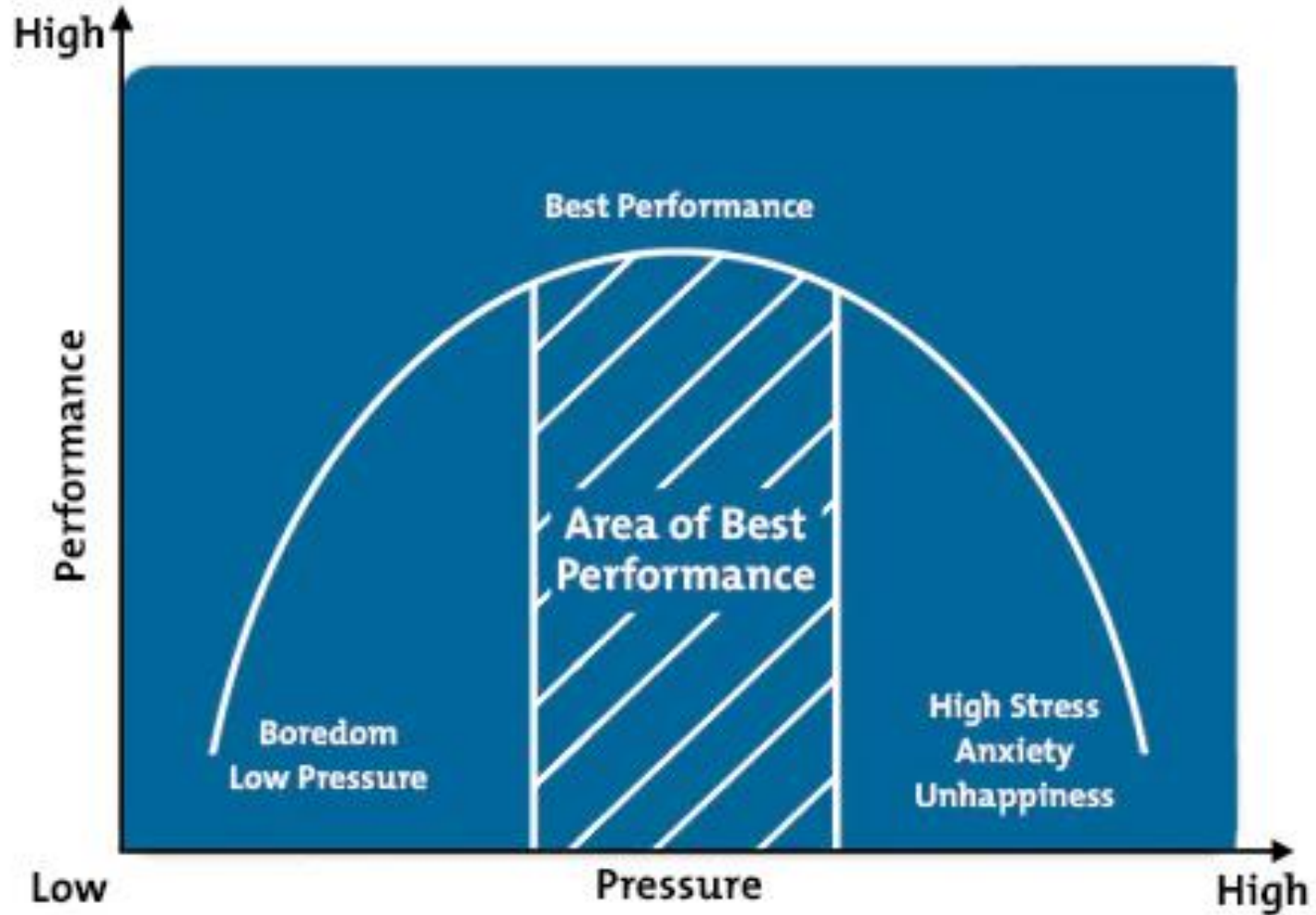
Enter word here

Well being

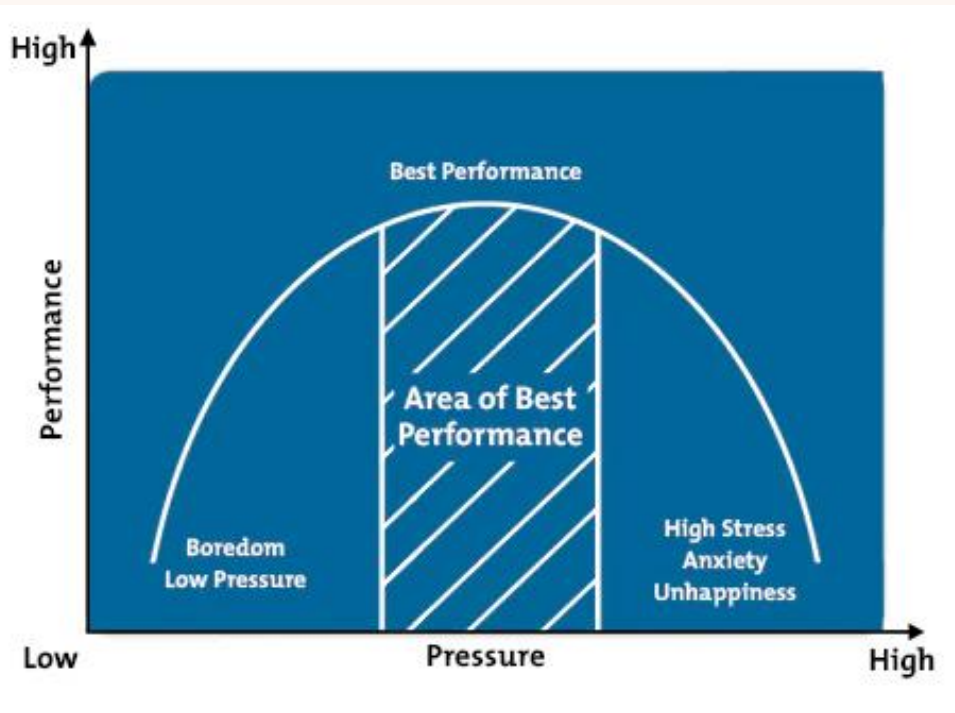


- I asked about emotions as these can impact our achievement
- Before covering some practicalities and advice about academic preparation I want to cover preparing yourself appropriately
- Assessment can be stressful and also impacts existing concerns and disabilities

Best performance 1



Best performance 2



- Too low = 'boreout'
- Ideal zone encompasses Comfort and stretch
- Zone of delusion begins with strain and then burnout

Where do you sit?

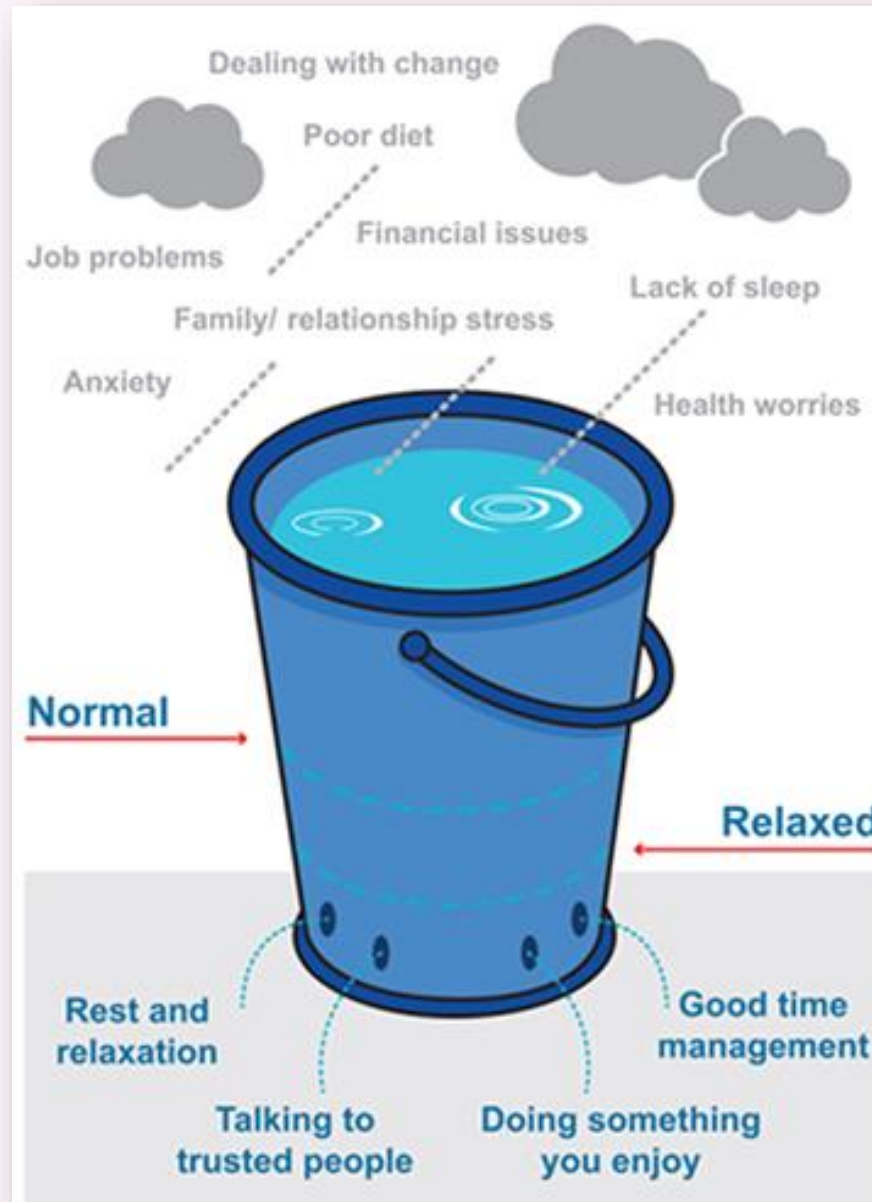


Which of these levels within the performance curve have you felt whilst studying?

- Boreout
- Comfort
- Stretch
- Strain
- Burnout

Please use the poll available to give your answer

Managing stress 1



Managing stress poll



- What things do you do to dissipate stress (allow the water to flow out of the bucket)? Please use the poll pod to say and let's see what ideas we all have that may help each other

Help available



- <https://help.open.ac.uk/mental-health-support>
- Student support team
- Disability support team
- Open University Students Association
- Tutor (module related)
- Carer network
- Family / friends

We can't provide all the answers now but please do make use of help available 😊

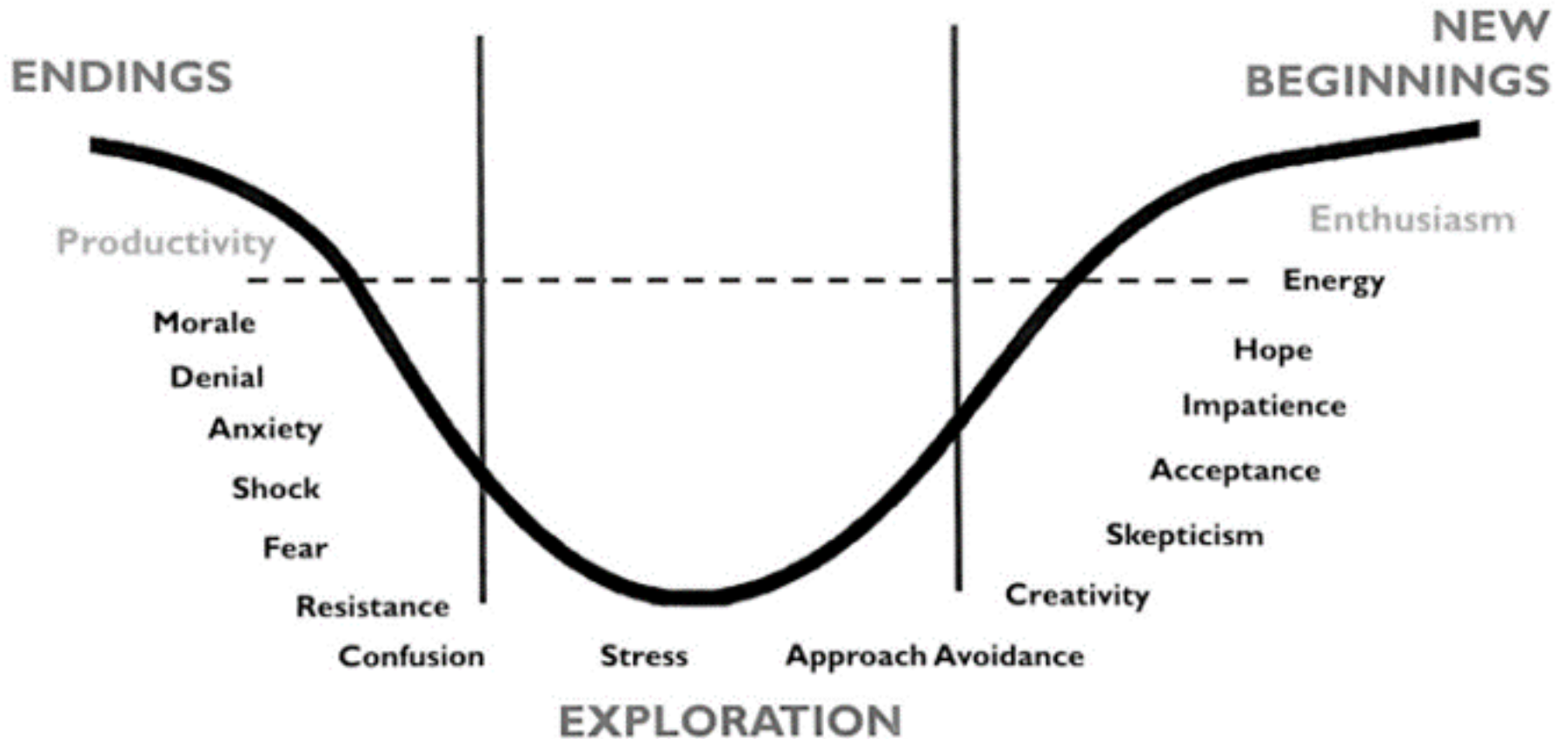
Coming back to psychology



- Completing your EMA represents the end of one course and the beginning of the next stage
- Transition theory suggests for some this can be challenging
- New beginnings arise from exploration and enthusiasm for those new challenges and beginnings

Transition curve

TRANSITION CURVE



Remaining question time

What else do you want to ask about?

What else?



- Please use the poll pod provided to ask any further questions you may have.
- Please bear in mind we can only give general advice and nothing module specific
- We can't answer everything so will select questions we are able to

Take home message



- EMAs are different to TMAs but you are still 'at home' so they work as a seen exam
- There are different rules to them
- They are covering the entirety of the module you have been studying so will require a holistic approach

Feedback



Please complete the feedback form that is available

at <https://forms.office.com/e/jZgJYv3vdx>

This is immensely valuable to provide information on how studenthublive is beneficial to students as well as to help us plan our future programme

(Please remember that as studenthublive is non modular we cannot provide subject based sessions- sorry!)

Upcoming events



- **14 May** **11am** **Exams and EMAs**
- 16 May 11am Get well prepared for your final exam
- 23 May 11am Creative problem-solving: techniques for success
- 29 May 7pm Creative note-taking
- 6 Jun 7pm Critical thinking (Introductory)
- 13 Jun 7pm Critical thinking (Intermediate)

For more information on all past and upcoming events, go to <http://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/>