

Survey of PHYS 1221--1231. 24/10/05

In the formal survey of PHYS 1221-1231 this year, students indicated that they did not get enough feedback on their progress in the course. To remedy this, we need to know what you would like.

140 responses. Results given in %	great idea	maybe	definitely not!
More exams during session (eg 4 tests instead of 2)	47	30	22
Mark the tutorials and count mark to total mark (say 2% each)	27	33	40
More optional tests like the optional week 4 test in PHYS1121-1131	40	46	14
Include a past exam question in each tutorial sheet	79	21	0
	Yes	a bit	No
I actually did the optional week 4 test in PHYS1121-1131	25	13	62
I have done past exam questions in 1221-1231 in the last few weeks	15	39	47
I regularly do the majority of the questions on my tutorial sheet	20	48	32

If you have suggestions, feel free to write them on the back

Do not fold paper

Comments and my responses.

More exams would ensure continuous study and ease pressure

Several people recommended have several small (5%) tests like in maths. eg 2 X 35% + 2 X 5%

Several people didn't know about the optional self test in first session.

Hard to know what to do here: it was on the web page throughout session and announced 3 times in class.

Too big difference between tutorial and exam questions

More tutorial questions should be past exam questions

It's easy enough for us to give past exam questions instead of tutorial sheets. (In fact we give both). One problem with past paper questions is that they sometimes combine several topics, and not just one week's work. But we can select and edit.

Why can't we keep our midsession papers

One quoted reason is a case of students modifying the script and then claiming to have been unfairly marked.

Have tutorial worked examples that can be found on the main site and alerts to key ideas in the questions.

We do have worked examples linked to your web site. I don't understand about the alerts. The heat questions deal with heat, the relativity questions deal with relativity...

It would be really good if we could go through our old exam papers. Provide sample solutions to exam.

You can go through the old exam papers. Weeks 11 and 12 in the lab.

Solutions are provided within a few days of the exam, on the noticeboard. For previous years, see the web.

It is difficult to find someone to discuss physics. Lecturer is too busy. Tutor only deals with tut problems.

Discuss with colleagues from class. Talk to lecturer after lecture. Try duty tutor (who often has no customers).

Conclusions.

Few students do tutorials or past papers.

A substantial fraction would like more exams – perhaps they want to be forced to work.

Some perplexing things. 79% would like a past paper question in the tutorials. This session we have been trialling that: suggesting which 2004 question to do each week. But only 15% have done it.

Joe Wolfe, October 2005