

Description of Written Homework Sets for Modules

I have uploaded the first of four written homework sets for the semester (one per module). The homework sets contain at least 2 and up to 7 questions that require short answers of about 3-4 sentences per question. Some questions have multiple parts. The questions are self-explanatory and focus on material contained in the module. Answers to these questions require a deeper understanding of concepts than those on the self-assessments and quizzes whose questions involve recognition (multiple choice, true-false, matching) or recall (fill-in-the-blank). You are to type your answers in the fillable pdf form itself, save the file, then upload it to the dropbox. (I will give special instructions on how to save a fillable pdf file as a “static” pdf file.)

We will use a simple 4-4-2 scoring system. The system is designed to reward students who write clear, thoughtful and thorough answers on each question. An added benefit of the scoring system is that it allows the teaching team to evaluate submissions quickly, which allows for a fast turnaround time.

Scores are based on three criteria. See the grading rubric at the bottom of the page.

- 1) Completeness (4 points): Did the student attempt every question? Put forth a sincere effort on each question?
- 2) Focus Problem (4 points): One question is graded rigorously for content. You do not know before hand which question will be selected as the focus, so you must do a thorough job on every question to ensure that you can earn a highest possible score.
- 3) Writing (2 points): Is the presentation clear and concise? Are the rules and standards of proper English used? Is the use of technical terminology correct?

Completeness	Level 4 4 points	Level 3 3 points	Level 2 2 points	Level 0 0 points	
Completeness and Effort	A sincere effort was made on every problem in an effort to master the material.	All questions attempted but they lack specifics or clarity of highest level.	All questions attempted but answers are incomplete or reflect minimal effort to learn the material.	Every problem was not attempted, or effort on problem set is not to university standards.	/ 4

Focus Problem(s)	Level 4 4 points	Level 3 3 points	Level 2 2 points	Level 0 0 points	
Level of Understanding	Thorough understanding of subject matter as revealed by focus question(s).	Answer reflects a mostly correct answer that lacks detail or clarity of highest level.	Answer reflects a partial but incomplete understanding of material.	Misunderstanding of material, incomplete answer or did not attempt the focus question.	/ 4

Writing	Level 2 2 points	Level 1 1 point	Unacceptable 0 points	
Quality of Narrative	Superior scientific writing. Material organized logically. Appropriate use of technical terms. Proper grammar used. Questions answered clearly and concisely.	Writing lacks organization and clarity that is needed to explain scientific material with precision.	Writing is not to university standards. I recommend student make an appointment with the Writing Center for tips on how to improve your writing.	/ 2

Total

/ 10