

Final examination in Introduction to Computer Science

The exam covers all the materials that appeared in the lectures, recitations (Friday meetings), exercises, and solutions. There is no need to memorize any technical API information, like names of String methods etc. If you will be asked to explain or write code using some existing classes and methods, we will give you the written API in the exam.

The exam does not cover Vic programming or anything specific about Vic. At the same time, it is possible that there will be questions about hardware, at the level discussed in the lecture.

How to prepare for the exam: The preparation seems to be obvious: go through the lecture and recitation notes, the examples, the exercises, and the solutions. If you have more time, read the book chapters.

Previous exam examples: Here is the final exam + solution from last year. Obviously you can look at previous exams given in this course by other instructors, but studying them may be problematic, for several reasons. First, the lecture plans and sequence of this course and courses that were given in the past are different. Second, we emphasize certain programming techniques, while previous courses emphasized other techniques. Third, there are differences in styles. Some instructors like to ask questions of one type, while other instructors prefer questions of a different type. And so on. For all these reasons, there is no need to panic if you see questions in previous exams that look unfamiliar. Likewise, the exam solutions show only one way to answer each question, while in reality there is typically more than one correct solution (especially in the case of programming).

OK, so how will THIS exam look like? You will have to answer short questions about some general concepts, explain some given code, and write some code. The code that you will have to understand and write will be at the same level as the code presented in class and in the exercises. Therefore, if you did the exercises on your own, and if you understand the examples discussed in the lectures, it is very likely that you will do well in the exam.

Do I have to memorize the line "public static void main(String[] args) "?

No, we will give it to you in the exam.

So Good Luck! We are sure that most of you will do well in the exam. If not, there is Moed Bet. And for the few who will fail both exams there is also the possibility of re-taking the course next year. It's not the end of the world.