

# Engineering Peer Helpers - ENGG 1210 Study Session Handout

## Exam taking tips to help you prepare for Term Test 1

What do you do when you are completely stuck in the middle of the exam? No clue how to answer the question. You're not sure if you've seen any similar questions before?! What is the question even asking?!?!

## USE The "Trip" Method!

This method helps you get the most marks you can out of a test, even when you are completely stuck! The **key** is to keep moving, keep your mind engaged with multiple trips through a test!

### 1<sup>st</sup> Trip:

- Read **slowly**, write down any and all information given in the question (values AND units)
- Highlight keywords in the question
- DRAW a Free Body Diagram (include all forces, vectors etc.). Mark the positive directions on the diagram
- Make an initial attempt at the problem. If you aren't 100% certain, put a star next to the question and ***move on!*** You can come back later
- Use your first trip as an opportunity to secure all of the easy marks so you don't run out of time later

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Trip:

- Go through each problem again, investing a little more time into struggling with the question
- Re-read/re-write the problem – a lot of times a problem is impossible because you read it wrong
- Consider the main topics that you have covered so far, and try to think which topic this question might be testing
- If available, use an equation sheet. Find any equation that has only 1 unknown based on the givens. If there are none, find 2 equations with 2 unknowns ( $n$  unknowns need  $n$  equations to solve - use substitution or elimination)
- If you do not know where to begin or are completely stuck, skip the question again

### More Trips!

- Keep moving through the test over and over, searching and slowly chipping away at each question
- ASSUME something to make the calculation easy – if you know how to solve the second half of the question, just do the parts you know how to solve and write a note explaining that you know what to do but can't do it because "<Insert your own explanation here>", or "I know this number is too high...etc"
- The goal of this process is to brainstorm. Put anything down because eventually you may stumble upon something
- Leave time at the end to do a quick review of your answers and ensure you didn't miss any questions

### Completely Stuck?

- You *can* get an extra 1, 2, 3 + marks on each question even if you have no idea. Make sure all givens, relevant equations, FBDs, and explanations of any concepts you believe the question is testing are written
- Unless the professor specifically says no questions allowed, don't be afraid to ask a question. The worst answer you can get is "I can't help you"