

## EXAM PREPARATION

### issue 5



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### *Stress Less Day*

- Monday Week 11
- Moot Court
- There will be hot chocolate, board games, snacks and more to de-stress you in what is an incredibly stressful time!

### *Exam Prep 101*

- Monday Week 11, 2pm
- Ligertwood 333

### *First Year Activities*

- Keep your eyes peeled for any upcoming first year activities! We have a few ideas floating around that we hope to make happen soon!

Firstly, congratulations on making it to Week 10! It's been a gruelling 10 weeks, so each and everyone one of you should be proud of yourselves for making it this far. Now that you have submitted your final torts assignment, you might be thinking, 'oh crap! I still have an exam. I've never done a uni exam before. How do I prepare for one?'. Well, don't you worry, the Education Team is here to help you with some nifty tips and tricks to help you ace this exam!

### **How far in advance should I start preparing for an exam?**

When I first heard the answer to this question, I just about fell off of my chair, so hold onto your hats people! Realistically, you should start preparing for an exam in week 1 of the semester. Now, this doesn't necessarily mean 5 hours of nightly exam prep for the entire semester, however, it is important to take note of what specific pieces of information will be relevant in the exam. Your lecturer and tutor will highlight the relevant cases, so make sure you take note of them and get familiar with them. Also, if you really listen in closely, many of your academics will point your attention to the pieces of information that you will/will not need to know. Pay attention to this so you don't end up wasting your time learning irrelevant information!

### **What does the exam actually look like?**

This may seem like a rather ridiculous question, but when I was in my first year, my friends and I were pretty intimidated by the fact that we had no idea what to expect. To put it simply, the exam structure/format differs between subjects. But for your benefit, I will be referring to the upcoming torts exam. The exam will look no different than the tort assignments you have been doing over the semester; it will include one big fact scenario that will be broken up into sections. Each section will contain one or two questions for you to answer. See? Not so scary now is it?

### **How would you recommend preparing for an exam?**

Exam preparation can be divided into two categories: academic preparation and personal preparation. To prepare for your exam on an academic level, you must be familiar with the content. The best way to do this is to create a great set of notes which you can take with you into the exam. Creating an exam outline is not only highly useful for the exam itself, but is also an invaluable revision tool. It is also beneficial to take practice exams if you can – often course coordinators will provide past papers for this reason. You should also aim to plan your timing in advance once you know the structure and time limit of the exam.

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On a personal level, there are a few things you can do to mentally prepare for your exam. As I'm sure you've all heard a million times, the key to success in any test is a good night's sleep beforehand. A good sleep schedule in the days leading up to the exam will allow your brain to function at its full capacity. A good meal the night before as well as the morning of will also help to fuel your brain, as will drinking plenty of water!

### **What should you take into an exam?**

This differs between subjects, and you will be provided specific guidelines in the next few weeks, however, some general things to remember for your online exams are:

- Your notes (either printed or easily accessible on your computer);
- All the stationery you may need from pens and pencils to highlighters;
- Spare planning paper (if you like to handwrite your initial notes);
- Water and snacks; and
- Optional: a watch to assist with time management.

### **How many cases should I focus on/read?**

As mentioned before, your exam preparation will depend on the type of exam you're taking, and the content it will contain. Your main focus right now is probably getting familiar with tort cases. Most often, the cases that are introduced by your tutors and lecturers will be the ones that will be helpful in an exam scenario. Get familiar with the cases, and get comfortable being able to use them in context as well! In terms of how many cases are needed, there is no real set number. As long as you feel you have enough information to be able to appropriately answer the questions in the exam, you should be set to go!

### **How should you allocate your time during an exam?**

Managing your time well during the exam is crucial to getting a high mark. Not only does it prevent you from panicking, but it also allows you to think through your answers more effectively. Here is a little arrangement that has worked for me in the past:

- Start your exam by reading the questions first. This will give you an idea of the relevant facts needed and will save you a lot of time from red herrings when reading the facts.
- Spend about 10 minutes reading the facts. Highlight any of the facts that you think are important along the way.

# Tales of First Year

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- Take note of the marks allocated to each question. This will give you a rough idea of the amount of time needed to answer the question. The higher the marks, the longer the time you should allocate.
- As your exam will be held online, be sure to allocate a few minutes for you to submit your answers. There have been situations where students handed in late submissions because their answers took too long to upload. To spare you the trouble of emailing your course coordinator, submit your answers a few minutes early.

### **What is the difference between an online and offline exam?**

Now, I'm sure that most of you would have heard of the University's plan to shift from online exams to face-to-face exams in semester 2. Although it is still a while before that happens, it is worth preparing yourself mentally before sitting for your first in-person exam. Some of you might personally know older students who will attest to the horrors of in-person exams. However, don't let that discourage you.

The main difference between an online exam and an in-person exam is that the questions will be in the form of a piece of paper rather than a PDF document and all of your answers will have to be handwritten, rather than typed out. Additionally, all the notes that you wish to refer to will have to be printed beforehand (I'm afraid "Command + F" is not going to work in person). Apart from this, the substantive content and knowledge you will be tested on will be of the exact same calibre.

P.S: If you have awful handwriting like me, it might be worth practising a few times before the exam.

We understand that the weeks leading up to your exams can be extremely stressful, especially if it's your first ever exam. While we hope this article will provide some guidance during your preparations, remember to take regular breaks and keep your health in check. Remember, if you find yourself struggling, there is always help available to you. We wish you all the best for your upcoming exams!

Best wishes,  
Bryan, Jess and Liv