ECON 110 – Exam Study Strategies

EXAM FORMAT
- 80 multiple choice questions
  - Part A: 40 questions
    - 1 mark for each question
  - Part B: 40 questions
    - 5 sets of long questions (8 each); focused on calculations
    - Each question is worth 1 mark

HOW TO STUDY
- Review lecture notes and textbook
  - If time is limited, review the concepts you are less familiar with and practice with relevant problems
- Review assignments, quizzes, and practice problems
- When reviewing, focus on understanding processes and themes, rather than cramming facts
- Practice with past exams; (the more practice the better!)
- Time yourself when self-testing with old exams. If possible, do the mock exam during the same time slot as your actual final.
  - Be patient with yourself! Do several of the same type of question to learn the patterns. Don’t give up!
  - Embrace and analyze your mistakes. Where are you lost? Refer back to your readings and lecture notes, then practice again.

STUDY AND EXAM PREP RESOURCES
- OnQ: Reading list (with some supplementary material), class handouts, coursework schedule
- For practice: assignments, online quizzes, practice problems (with solutions) and old exams (with solutions)
- Professors and TAs
- How-to-study workshops run by Economics DSC

FINDING PRACTICE QUESTIONS
- OnQ: assignments, quizzes, practice problems, past exams
- Exam Bank: for practicing with past exams
- Re-use or adapt questions from class
- Designing your own appropriate questions is useful, since you’ll be using your knowledge of the course to define what’s important and what’s not

COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID WHILE STUDYING
- Trying to memorize all the material. Use the course syllabus and past papers to prioritize what’s more or less important
- Not trying to understand the concepts before doing practice problems
- Avoid cramming unfamiliar material on the last day! Work through content over a longer period of time

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR
- Work to understand how to solve practice questions right after class - not only before the exam
- Get help from classmates, professors or TAs in a timely manner
- Keep up with your readings, focusing on concepts and reoccurring terms over small facts

OTHER RESOURCES
- ASUS tutoring
- TAs, professors and group members
- Brush up on basic knowledge through the economics resources on http://www.khanacademy.org
- Student Academic Success Services’ one-on-one consultations and workshops

FINAL TAKEAWAYS
- Practice plays a big role in preparing for the ECON 110/112 final exam and goes beyond simply doing as many problems as you can. Reviewing and understanding relevant content is also important, especially for Part A in the exam
- Leave ample time in your prep activity to review notes and to practice and refine answers
- First-year courses are designed to give you foundational knowledge in your discipline: if you understand the big themes and underlying ideas of the course, you’re set for next year!