

Written Homework Grading Scale

Each written homework problem that is graded will be given a score out of 4 points, which is a sum of the two numbers below. Therefore, a sample score on a homework problem will be written $3 + 1 = 4$, which means you have earned 3 points for correctness and +1 points for quality of exposition.

0-4 points for correctness: A measure of the correctness of your answer.

- 0 pts – No attempt at problem, or answer is simply written down with no work shown.
- 1 pt – Method selected is not at all appropriate for problem, or no real method is selected but a few random facts are written down.
- 2 pts – Method selected is only partially appropriate for problem, or addresses only part of the problem. Or, correct method is carried out only partially, or correct method attempted with major errors.
- 3 pts – A correct methodology is selected for solving the problem. Selected method is generally applied correctly, with only minor errors.
- 4 pts – A correct methodology is selected for solving the problem. Selected method is correctly applied, with no errors.

-1 to +1 points for quality of exposition: No this is not a typo – you can receive one point of extra credit for turning in an exposition that the grader feels is “excellent”. A “good” exposition is all that is required to get full credit.

- -1 point – Barely acceptable exposition. Major steps shown. Logic can be barely followed. Handwriting legible enough to be read by grader (type your homework if you cannot make your handwriting legible). If final answer is numerical, then this answer is boxed. Units included if appropriate.
- 0 points – Good exposition. Everything described above, plus: Work is carefully and neatly written, spaced out and organized for maximum readability. Steps flow logically and are easy to follow even though there may not be enough verbal description to qualify for an “excellent” score. Any variables you introduce to the problem are named and described before you use them. Equals signs are lined up and used appropriately (“=” versus “ $\Rightarrow$ ” used in appropriate settings).
- +1 points – Excellent exposition. Everything described above, plus: A brief (3 words to 1 sentence) verbal description lies as a heading over each new section of computation.

Exception: Any solution whose exposition qualifies as “ugly” will earn 0 **total** points regardless of whether it is correct or not. I will show you examples of ugly expositions in class. Don’t let this happen to you!