

# Questions and Answers Vol. 5

*or*

“A caffeinated student is a busy student.”

Paul Pounds

9 May 2017

University of Queensland

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# But first...

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Some house keeping

# Calendar at a glance

Week	Dates	Lecture	Reviews	Demos	Assessment submissions
1	28/2 – 3/3	Introduction			
2	6/3 – 10/3	Principles of Mechatronic Systems design			Problem analysis
3	13/3 – 17/3	Professional Engineering Topics			
4	20/3 – 24/3	Introduction to Practical PCB Design	Progress review 1		
5	27/3 – 31/4	Your soldering is (probably) terrible			
6	3/4 – 7/4				
7	10/4 – 14/4		Progress seminar	25% demo	
<b>Break</b>	17/4 – 21/4				
8	24/4 – 28/4				
9	1/5 – 5/5			50% demo	
<b>10</b>	8/5 – 12/5		Progress review		
<b>11</b>	15/5 – 19/5			75% demo	Preliminary report
<b>12</b>	22/5 – 26/5				
<b>13</b>	29/5 – 2/6	Closing lecture		Final testing	Final report and reflection

You are  
here →

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# Coming up soon

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Preliminary report is due end of next week

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# The reports

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- The final report is the major written assessment piece of the class:
  - Detail work done to make your system function
  - Detail the analytical approach you used
  - Convince me that you followed a sane and considered approach in finding your solution
- The preliminary report is just the same
  - Only sooner!

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# The preliminary report

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- The preliminary report allows us to give you useful feedback *prior* to assigning marks
- Once handed in, we will endeavour to return useful comments to you the next week
  - Use the comments to improve the final report!
- Pass/fail assessment – **10 per cent.**

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# The preliminary report

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- The preliminary report must:
  - Contain the majority of content and structure of the final report
  - Constitute a complete, polished report in its own right (preliminary, *not draft.*)
- The preliminary report must not:
  - Be an unstructured jumble of material
  - Be an incomplete, feeble effort

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# The preliminary report

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- Preliminary report due in Week 11
  - That's next week
  - That's only *ELEVEN* days away!
- The final report is due in Week 13
  - Last day of semester

OMG! Get started now!!



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# The preliminary report

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- Comments back on the preliminary report are only intended to be suggestions for improving your writing and construction.
- They are **NO** indication of the mark you can expect on the final report.
- Mindlessly following the comments alone will not guarantee 100% on the final report.

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# FAQ Roundup

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- **Can we recycle parts of our design analysis for the report?**
  - Sure. However, it's worth noting that a design analysis and a project report are two different types of document for two different purposes. You should think very carefully about what parts are recyclable and why you might choose to reuse them.
- **But what about self-plagiarism??**
  - Sigh....

Allow me to explain.

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# Self-plagiarism

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- “Self-plagiarism” is almost certainly does not mean what you think it means.
  - Only tangentially about copying your own work

Self-plagiarism is about *misrepresentation*.

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# Self-plagiarism

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- In the rarefied airs of academic publishing, it is of utmost importance whether the material you publish is ‘novel’
  - Ie. never before seen nor published anywhere

“Nobody will pay for old news.”

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# Self-plagiarism

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- Thus, if you take old academic work and try to pass it off as new research, the publishers will *destroy* you.
  - Or just sue you, or whatever.
  - Either way, your career is over.

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# Self-plagiarism

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- In an educational context, rehashing old work does not fulfil the educational goal.
  - We want to know what you can do now, in the constraints imposed, rather than what you did last year without restrictions.

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# Self-plagiarism

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- So, educators and academics care a great deal about self-plagiarism and warn students against it's sinful nature.
- Of course, most engineers live and work in the real world...

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# Self-plagiarism

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- In engineering practice, replicating work needlessly is unprofessional and inappropriate.
- So long as you only take credit for your own work and credit others' appropriately (using their work by permission, of course) employers do not care if you copy



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# Self-plagiarism

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- This course is structured like a professional design and build project.
  - Your reporting should reflect this.
- Consequently, I have zero qualms about you reusing your own past work from the course.
  - Cite small quotes/extracts, but replication is ok.
  - Of course, do not copy the work of others without proper attribution, though.

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# Incremental demo

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- Next week is the 75% incremental demo
  - This is as close to real as we can make it
- Same process as last time:
  1. Send me an email request naming your team, you, and stating your desire to test
  2. Show up at the appointed time
  3. ???
  4. Profit!

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# Incremental demo

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- I strongly urge you to attend this demo
  - Either demoing, or just spectating
- You will get to see the system in action, for reals, doing everything it's supposed to
  - You are running out of time to make any changes to your system
  - Better to find out what doesn't work sooner...

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# Minor spec change

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- Rather than weighing the sub down to 300-500 g, we will keep it at its current weight
  - Getting the weights to work right in the sub was hit and miss, and we couldn't guarantee consistency
  - Also, students have only had the lighter sub to play with thus far

The spec will be duly updated after the lecture

Let me know if you think this will be an undue burden

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# Questions

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# Tune-in next time for...

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## Questions and Answers Vol. 6

*or*

“The world is one cup of coffee away from chaos”

Fun fact: Paul did ~~not~~ have coffee this morning.