

Research Skills: preparation & exercises

This document details all of the preparatory reading and exercises associated with each of the lectures. Check the course website for resources. Lecture times are Thursday 2 p.m. and Monday 2 p.m. Assignments are generally due at 4 p.m. on Mondays.

<http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/teaching/1213/C00/>

	Date	Venue	Subject	Lecturer	Preparation	Related exercise	Deadlines (at 4 p.m.)
1	4 Oct	LT2	Reading 1	Dodgson	Preface & Ch 1	1	
2	8 Oct	LT1	Reading 2	Dodgson	Ch 12, 13	2	Exercise 1 (summarise)
3	11 Oct	LT1	Presenting 1	Dodgson	Ch 14	8	
4	15 Oct	LT1	Writing 1	Dodgson	Ch 2, 3	3, 4, 5	Exercise 2 (review)
5	18 Oct	LT1	Writing 2	Dodgson	Ch 8	3, 4, 5	
6	22 Oct	LT1	Writing 3	Peyton-Jones			Exercise 3 (edit)
7	25 Oct	LT1	Writing 4	Dodgson	Ch 9	4, 5	
8	29 Oct	LT1	Experiment 1	Robinson	Ch 11, web	6	Exercise 4 (write)
9	1 Nov	LT1	Experiment 2	Robinson	web	6	
10	5 Nov	LT1	Experiment 3	Robinson	web	6	Exercise 5 (reduce)
11	8 Nov	LT1	Research	Dodgson	Ch 10		
12	12 Nov	LT1	Graphics 1	Dodgson	Ch 6	7	
13	15 Nov	LT1	Graphics 2	Dodgson	Ch 5, 7	7	
14	19 Nov	LT1	Presenting 2	Dodgson		8	Exercise 6 (analyse)
15	22 Nov	LT1	Presenting 3	Dodgson		8	
16	26 Nov	LT1	Presenting 4	Dodgson		8	Exercise 7 (graph)
	Mid-2013						Exercise 8 (present)

*Preparatory reading should be done *before* the lecture

Exercises

The exercises are designed to give you experience of various research skills. By doing the exercises on this course, you gain both experience and feedback before having to use the skills in writing or presenting your own research work.

Details of the exercises are on the course website:

<http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/teaching/1213/C00/>

No.	Topic	Mark	Summary
1	summarise	5	You will be given a research paper to read. Answer six questions to summarise the content.
2	review	10	You will be given a research paper to read. Complete a one-page review form and a page of free-form comments on the paper.
3	edit	10	You will be given a poorly-written piece of text. Identify where the writer has made mistakes. Edit the text to improve it.
4	write	10	Write a 300-word original piece on a specified topic.
5	reduce	10	Iteratively reduce a specified piece of writing from 300 words to 270, 240, 210, ..., 90 words.
6	analyse	20	You will be given a data set and a description of the experiment that generated it. Analyse the data and draft sections of a paper explaining it.
7	graph	15	You will be given some graphs. Evaluate how well they present the data. You will be give some data. Graph it in the most appropriate way.
8	present	20	Prepare and give a short presentation on your project or essay.

Time allocation

You should expect to spend 80 hours on the Research Skills module. Of those, 16 hours are in lectures and 16 hours are preparatory reading before the lectures and private study after the lectures in which you consolidate what was taught. Up to 8 further hours will be in attending the presentations in mid-2013. The remaining 40 hours are spent working on the exercises and should be split between the exercises in the roughly the same proportion as the marks. You should thus allocate Exercise 1 about 2 hours' of your time, while Exercises 6 and 8 will require about 8 hours' work each. Remember that these timings are a rough guide not a hard rule.