

# Natural Language Understanding, Generation, and Machine Translation

## Lecture 30: Exam Review

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# How the Exam will be Run

- The exam will cover all material in lectures 2-29
- It will contain 3 questions, each of a different topic; these questions are approximately equal weight and add up to 50 points
- Each subquestion will indicate how much it's worth
- You will have **two hours** to complete the exam!
- The date of the exam should be May 11th (please double-check!) — Date and time is available at <https://exams.is.ed.ac.uk>

# How the Exam will be Run

- The exam will be held in person and will be invigilated
- The exam is **closed book**, which means no notes, books, calculators, or any other aids are allowed
- You will write your answers into the exam booklet; please be careful to use the space that's provided for each question in the booklet
- The exam will be marked electronically using Gradescope

# How to Prepare

- Revise the content of the lectures!
- Study the readings and also the tutorial questions
- Only the required readings are examinable, but the additional readings may reinforce concepts and can give you a feel for how to use concepts in new settings
- The exam will focus on analysis and synthesis — you will need to understand fundamental concepts/models (e.g., RNNs, Transformers, and Attention) and how to apply them to new problems

# How to Prepare

- Don't wait until the last minute!!! Study early and often — research shows that spaced repetition is the most effective way to remember material
- Write revision notes — for example, try to summarise the course in one or two pages
- Creating one or two pages of key information makes you think about what are the most important parts of the course, what you can remember, and what you still need to revise

# How to Prepare

- Study **actively**: simply reading information is not a good way to remember or understand it
- Work through examples, making sure you get the correct answer, and think about what question we might ask related to that material
- Ask yourself how different parts of the course connect to each other — what are the different themes? What are different ways to approach some of the tasks?
- Consider the types of questions we might ask, and how they would apply to different parts of the course:
  - Applying a method, model, or concept to new contexts and situations
  - Analysing, evaluating, or comparing one or more methods
  - Synthesising knowledge to address a new situation

# How to Get Help

- If you get stuck during exam revision:
  - We will hold a Q&A session closer to the date of the exam
  - The TAs will hold office hours in the week before the exam
  - Questions on Piazza are more than welcome at any time before the exam!

# How to Practice

- Practice exam-taking! Don't just think about your answers: write them out by hand and give yourself time limits
- Practice questions from the tutorial sheets — you may see similar questions in the exam
- Practice using old exa whenever possible: <https://exampapers.ed.ac.uk>
  - NLU+ 2019-2022
  - NLU 2015-2018
  - MT 2015-2018
- **For previous exams, no model answers are provided**



# How to Sit the Exam

- You will be expected to answer all questions — there are no optional questions
- Pay attention to the allocation of points — if a question is worth 1 or 2 points, a short answer is expected: a sentence or two
- Read the whole exam and make a plan — allocate enough time for each question
- You will need to write out your answers by hand — make sure your writing is legible, please!



**DAJE**

Go for it!

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