

Thoughts on how to be a great student

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First some bad news ...

You are all clever ...

... relative to the general population

However ...

- Courses are no longer easy.
- You will have to work hard just to pass courses
- Probably harder than you have ever done before.

Then some good news

You will be judged

... only during your exams

You will not be judged ..

- ① during class
- ② during office hours
- ③ during computer labs
- ④ when doing theoretical exercises

Take every opportunity to ask questions

- At least 50% of your class mates have the same question
- The rest do not even realize that they have this question

How to learn

- 1 Attend class
- 2 Take notes
- 3 Read the book
- 4 Read your notes
- 5 Rewrite your notes
- 6 Do problems
- 7 Explain your understanding to others
- 8 Listen to your class mates
- 9 Do even more problems
- 10 Ask questions

It is natural to fear ridicule

- ① There are no stupid questions
- ② The only mistake is not to ask
- ③ If somebody laughs ...
 - they are either insecure or
 - they are missing an opportunity to learn
 - I know this.
 - You know this now.
 - Everyone else knows this.

FAQ

- Why do I have to find the range of 20 functions?
- Why do I have to compute 30 integrals?
- I am never going to use Bubble Sort! Why bother?
- I will never write a line of assembler code! Why bother?

Subject X is boring ...

Why bother doing problems

Problems are the scientific equivalent of

- doing pushups
- running up and down a field with a foot ball
- doing martial arts kata until your limbs hurt

They are necessary before you can do the really good stuff

But Bubble Sort ...?

We teach you bubble sort so that

- You can learn how to write algorithms correctly
- You can learn how to analyse algorithm
- You can appreciate more advanced algorithms
- You have a reservoir of ideas to draw from

We just might be teaching you something useful after all

Extend your knowledge beyond your topic

There is more to study than your chosen topic(s). There is

- History
- Economics
- Philosophy
- Psychology
- Languages
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Technology

We have a good library, use it.

- ① Get enough sleep!
- ② Eat regular meals!
- ③ Moderate and regular exercise is good for you!
- ④ Keep in mind that 33% of the population is allergic to perfume.