

## Types of exams

There are a number of different exam types you will come across during your studies at ANU. You will be given information about the exam in advance and this information is vital in helping you to prepare.

<i>Exam type</i>	<i>Distinctive features</i>
<i>Closed-book</i>	You are not able to take any reference materials into the exam (except maybe dictionaries and certain calculators).
<i>Open-book</i>	You can take in certain materials (e.g. notes, books). These materials will only be useful if thoroughly worked on before the exam so that you are totally familiar with the content.
<i>Take-home</i>	The paper is provided for you to complete in a given time (usually over a weekend). Often 'essay' type questions. The focus is less on your memory recall and more on your understanding of the course content.
<i>Pre-seen</i>	A preview of the exam is provided for you to prepare your answers. You may be required to write on all or some of the questions but not told which ones. Again, a higher standard will be expected because of insights into exam questions.
<i>Online</i>	Some courses have online exams or quizzes that can include a number of question types. These are often completed through the course eLearning site.
<i>Oral</i>	Used in some disciplines to particularly focus on your knowledge and understanding of discipline specific terms and concepts and in particular your ability to verbally express your knowledge and ideas.
<i>Practical or clinical</i>	Depends on the discipline but usually involves observation of your individual performance in a task in the laboratory, clinical or field setting. Practical exams are designed to test your ability to practically apply concepts to a given situation.

## Types of exam questions

Within the different types of exams, there are several different types of exam questions that may be used. Some exams may include more than one type. Different types of questions focus on different skills. It is important to find out as much as possible about the exam beforehand so that you can adopt the best study and revision approach for the exam and match the studying techniques to the style of exam and question types.

<i>Question type</i>	Skills being tested	Strategies for revision
<i>Essay</i>	Essay questions test your knowledge of the course generally, but also your capacity to analyse the course content and apply concepts. Some essays will require you to show your knowledge through accurate description and explanation of terms and concepts, others will require more interpretation, but you be expected to demonstrate your critical analysis through a well-reasoned and supported argument.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practice writing essay plans/outlines.</li> <li>• Practise writing whole essays or essay parts that can be used in more than one essay.</li> <li>• Practise summarising theories, research and other specific evidence that you can use in your paragraphs to support your points.</li> <li>• Find possible essay questions to practice.</li> </ul>
<i>Short and long answer</i>	Short answer exams test your understanding of concepts or issues, your knowledge of terms, and your ability to solve problems and apply knowledge. Answers can be as short as one sentence, a paragraph or up to a page.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise and memorise key terms, theories and concepts from the course.</li> <li>• Practise writing definitions and explanations.</li> <li>• Practise questions that involving applying the revised concepts.</li> </ul>
<i>Multiple choice</i>	Multiple choice questions test your ability to make fine distinctions in terms of definitions and understanding of concepts, theories or ideas. Students are expected to nominate an answer for all questions. Usually students are not penalised for incorrect responses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise and memorise key terms, theories and concepts from the course.</li> <li>• Study with a friend or study group testing each other's knowledge and recall of key terms, theories and concepts.</li> </ul>
<i>Problem solving</i>	Some exams present a problem that you may need to solve over more than one question. These are common in mathematical based courses but may also appear in other courses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise formulae</li> <li>• Develop a glossary of key terms, ideas or formulae</li> <li>• Practise questions without looking for hints in the course material to mimic exam conditions and help you deal with difficult questions that might appear</li> <li>• Practice difficult questions beyond the examples used in lectures and tutorials.</li> </ul>