

MT201 Examination Remarks (v1.0, 28 Jan 2004)

1. **No** need to write **comments**, unless specified otherwise in the question
2. **No** need to write **import** statements, unless specified otherwise in the question
3. Although not recommended, answers written in **pencil** will be marked. Please make sure that the color is deep enough so that it can be seen clearly. Writing program statements are special in which erasing may be needed more frequently.
4. The **appendices** of the units are usually not required, except those appear in the Specimen Examination Paper and TMAs.
5. The text book of King is not required, except the Readings that you are asked to read in units *and* they are not covered in the units.
6. Usually enough lines are reserved for you to write program statements directly in the question paper. If you need more lines, the space (if any) below the lines can be used. You can save some space by writing the "}" on the same line as the last statement. You can also request an **answer book** if more space is needed.
7. Note, in the Appendix of specimen paper (and the actual exam paper), the parameter of first `read()` in `InputStream` and first `write()` in `OutputStream` is an integer, although only the least significant 8 bits (or a byte) are read or written. You saw `read(b)` and `write(b)` in the Appendix of specimen paper and you will see them in the Appendix of the actual paper. The character `b` means an integer but a byte is read or written.
8. In some rare cases (if any), you may need to state your assumptions and proceed. The answers will be taken care of by the marking scheme.
9. See the examination suggestions on the next page.

Examination Suggestions

1. Examination Information

- date and time: see official announcement document
- specimen exam paper part I (55%), **11** short questions, **ALL** compulsory
These are questions whose coverage is broader but easier. Q1-Q10 covers each of the 10 units, very few of them (if any) examine the knowledge from more than one unit. Q11 is usually a hard question. In this part, there are easy, medium level and difficult questions which are usually arranged in increasing order of difficulty.
- specimen exam paper part II (45%), long questions, choose **3** questions out of **4**
These are more difficult questions to test deeper understanding on selected areas and knowledge from more than one unit is usually required. In this part, there are easier questions or easier parts within a question. Try to answer them.
- the format of actual exam paper will be somewhat similar to the specimen paper
- therefore try to do the specimen exam paper and understand the solutions

2. Suggested Time Allocation for Questions

- spend about 9 minutes for each question in part I (totally about 100 minutes)
- spend about 10 minutes in the *selection* of questions in part II (about 10 minutes)
- spend about 20-25 minutes for each question in part II (totally about 70 minutes)

3. Suggested Sequence of Answering Questions

(a) Short Questions:

- one general strategy is to make yourself feel *confident* about the exam
- answer the *short* questions first since they are usually easier
- read the short questions one by one, if you feel that you know how to answer, try it *within* the time limit
- if you find it difficult when you read it, or when you are doing it, *skip* it and come back later
- **don't** spend too much time on a single question since there may be other questions *easier* for you

(b) Long Questions:

- since you need to choose, one approach is to read all the questions quickly to get a feeling of the questions
- choose those which you expect to get highest marks and attempt them *within* the time limits
- if you find it difficult when you are doing it a part, *skip* that part and attempt the next one
- if the following parts depend on this part, skip the whole question and come back later
- again **don't** spend too much time on a single question at this stage

(c) Second Attempt:

- if time is up, this is the best you can do --- you have tried the easiest questions for you
- if you can keep your time limits, there should be time left since you might have skipped some questions
- if you have finished the whole paper, congratulations! But please check again, especially for the answers that you are not very sure about their correctness
- if you have not finished, go back to the question which has the highest chance of success first, then the next highest and so on

4. Suggested focus to pass the exam

- Suppose the distribution of marks for easy, medium level and difficult parts is 40, 40, 20. If you can get 80%, 40% and 0% on them, you can pass the exam since $40 \times 0.8 + 40 \times 0.4 + 20 \times 0 = 48$. Therefore efforts should be made to get high scores on the easy part and about half of the scores on the medium part.

5. Difficult Questions

- Even if you don't know how to answer a whole question, please try to **answer the parts you know** since partial marks are likely to be given to the correct statements. For example in Q6 of the specimen paper, there must be a statement printing two asterisks ("**") and writing such a statement is easy
`(System.out.print("**"));`

6. In case you are lack of time, the following may be the order of revision

- first, make sure you know how to do the specimen exam paper (and questions similar to those in the specimen paper)
- second, you should know how to do your TMAs.
- finally, you should revise the course materials.
- By allocating sufficient time, the order may be the opposite: course materials, TMAs and then specimen paper.

Remarks:

1. the above are only suggestions, you may find other ways more suitable for you
2. **Question:**

If I estimate that I can finish the current question within 1 or 2 minutes but time limit has been reached, should I finish the current one first or start a new one?

Answer:

Finish the current one. The reason to keep the time limit is that you don't want to get only 5 marks in an hour. If you are quite sure that you can get 2 marks in 2 minutes, you should get them. The extra time spent on re-reading the question when you attempt this question again may exceed 2 minutes.