

How to Take a Test in EE 2310

The following instructions and observations apply to all tests in EE 2310.

1. Prepare well in advance. Do ALL the homeworks and worksheets. Review lectures and assure that you understand all the basic principles covered on the test. Examples (all examples do not apply to all tests):
 - Boolean definitions
 - Identities
 - DeMorgan's law
 - How a fundamental RS flip-flop works. If you completely understand the operation of a simple RS flip-flop, you can understand any principle of sequential logic.
 - Fundamentals of assembly language programming, including instruction formats and fundamental instructions.
 - Basics of computer architecture, especially the pipeline.
2. When studying, do NOT concentrate on specific problems, but on solution methods. As noted above, understand the fundamental principles.
3. Prepare your "cheat sheet" by hand, if possible. You will be surprised how much knowledge you gain by writing out the "cheat sheet" manually. Completing this sheet can be half the studying process.
4. Read each problem carefully. Students often start writing vigorously before they finish reading a problem. Read a problem thoroughly to be sure you understand it. Then read it a second time as a check.
5. Follow instructions carefully. For instance, you may be given a design problem with only certain available circuits, with or without inverting inputs, and you must use only those circuits. Or, you might have an assembly language programming problem restricting you to certain instructions. Make sure you understand all problem parameters and proceed as directed.
6. Meter your time. Do NOT spend too much time on any one problem, and be sure to put in some effort on EVERY problem. Partial credit cannot be given if you did not attempt the problem.
7. If you are not sure how to complete a problem, write down all the applicable formulas and/or principles you remember. State how you think you should proceed. Even if you do not complete the problem, your work might be worth 1/3 or even up to 1/2 credit.
8. Don't panic! Students sometimes draw a blank reading a problem for the first time. Take your time, read it again, and then, if still unsure, talk your way through what you DO understand. The steady, ordered approach always works. This assumes, of course, that you have studied thoroughly!