

University of Toronto at Scarborough
Department of Computer & Mathematical Sciences

MATA32F

REVISEDDiagnostic Test Information

Fall 2014

All students in MATA32F are strongly encouraged to take the Online Diagnostic Test (DT). Many students have already taken the DT as a result of the email letter they received in August. If you have taken the DT and passed (i.e. attained a score of 13 or more out of 18), then congratulations! You can confidently move on with your studies in MATA32F and an automatic 2% bonus will be credited to your final grade for the course. If you have passed the DT, then no further attempts are needed (or permitted).

If you have not taken the DT or you did not pass it (i.e. scored 12 or less out of 18), then read on. Further attempts of the DT can be accessed at our MATA32F web site on two occasions: **Friday, Sept 5 from 1pm-10pm** and **Wednesday, Sept 10 from 1pm-10pm**. You will use your UTORid and UTORid password to access the DT. Make sure you have activated your UTORid prior to attempting the DT. As a safeguard before attempting to access the DT, you should verify your UTORid and password via the link utorid.utoronto.ca. As another safeguard check, you should also login to the ROSI using your UTORid and password before attempting the DT. You may do the DT at home, at UTSC, or on any computer. You may use a calculator, and you should have some scrap paper, writing tools, and a quiet environment. All responses to the DT questions are entered Online.

There are 18 multiple choice questions for the DT and you will have 75 minutes to complete it. You may begin the DT at any time in the 9 hour window from 1pm to 10pm as above, but it's sensible to start it well before 10pm. Once you access the DT, you must carry on with completing it there and then. You cannot begin the test, then suspend your work, and visit the DT again later. Once you access the DT it will automatically close at the 75 minute time limit. Only one access is permitted on the days above.

The DT questions cover Ontario high school mathematics in elementary algebra, basic analytic geometry, functions, and word problems. There is no trigonometry on the DT or in any part of MATA32F. The DT is not meant to be difficult. Rather, it is intended to be a straightforward way to inform each MATA32F student of their mathematical readiness and preparation to move forward in MATA32F. To prepare right now, it would be useful to review the following from our textbook: the inside front cover on "Algebra", Chapters 0, 1, and 2 (Omit section 2.8), Sections 3.1 - 3.3, and Sections 4.1 - 4.1. You review at your own discretion and level of preparation. All of this material should be very familiar from high school (or even earlier).

A passing mark is 13 or higher out of 18. There are no part marks. The DT is scored automatically as soon as you complete it. If you pass on Friday, Sept 5, then congratulations ! You will then have shown you have decent preparation to continue with MATA32F, you will automatically have a 2% bonus credited towards your entire MATA32F final grade, and you will then be done with the DT (meaning no further attempt is needed or permitted). If you do not pass on the Friday, Sept 5 attempt, then you will be allowed another attempt (with a different DT) on Wednesday, Sept 10. If you pass on this attempt, then congratulations with the same nice conclusions as above.

*****NEW***** After Wednesday Sept 10, 10pm, if you have made less than three attempts at the DT (i.e no attempts, only 1 attempt, or only 2 attempts) and you have not yet passed the DT (i.e you have not yet had a score of 13 or more out of 18), then you are allowed one final attempt on **Tuesday Sept 16, 1pm - 10pm**. Same rules, access information, and conclusions apply as above.

If you do not pass the DT after all attempts, then your course instructors strongly insist that you take a lot of time at the beginning of MATA32F to review the basics as outlined in the text chapters and sections above. This is really important. It has been determined that, for the most part, students who do not pass the DT after all possible attempts are very unlikely to be successful in MATA32F. As well, students who do not pass the DT on any attempt, will not earn the 2% bonus towards their final mark. If you do not pass the DT after all possible attempts, you may still carry on with MATA32F this fall, but you will likely have a lot of mathematical difficulties and consistent frustration. If you do not pass the DT after all possible attempts, it may be worth while to consider not taking MATA32F this fall. Instead, use the fall time to extensively review Grade 11 and 12 math and the first four sections of our MATA32F textbook, and then take MATA32S (the same course taught in Winter 2015) when your background is stronger. That is only a suggested thought if the DT shows that your mathematical preparedness is very weak.