

We summarize here the basic information about the structure and regulations concerning the final exam for the course *Topology*. This note should be regarded as an informal complement to the mandatory information provided in the *ETH course catalogue* and it is made available with the sole scope of helping in the process of preparation for the exam.

Structure of the exam and general regulations

- The duration of the written exam (in any session) will always be **120 minutes**.
- The time and place of the exam are solely determined by the *Akademische Dienste* department, and the instructor has no way of modifying them in order to accomodate special requests.
- During the exam no written aids nor calculators or any other electronic device are allowed. Mobile phones must be **switched off and stowed away** in your bag during the whole duration of the exam.
- The structure of each written exam (in any session) will always be the same and is as follows:

Part I. a total of **30 points** divided in:

- I.a. (**10 points**) exercises asking to provide *definitions, statements of the key theorems, basic examples and counterexamples* seen in class;
- I.b. (**20 points**) *10 true/false questions* for which you are asked to give also a brief justification or counterexample.

Part II. a total of **40 points** divided in:

- II.a. (**20 points**) a problem mainly focused on General Topology;
- II.b. (**20 points**) a problem mainly focused on Algebraic Topology.

- Said $0 \leq x \leq 70$ your total score on the exercises, your final grade in the exam will be *bounded from below* by

$$\min \left\{ 6, \frac{x}{10} \right\}.$$

(I am writing *bounded from below* rather than *equal to* because the final grade distribution may be subject to a renormalization due to a number of factors that are a priori rather unpredictable. However, in the phase of preparation for this exam, it is advisable to assume that your final grade will be actually equal to the formula provided above.)

- As a result of the previous item, even if you aim at the top grade you are not expected to solve all exercises, so if you get stuck on a problem it is advisable to move on to something else. Just focus on those topics you are more fluent with.
- Full score on each exercise is given for a *complete and correct* solution, which means that all your answers do need to be properly justified. The sole indication of an unjustified answer has essentially no value whatsoever.

- It is fine and allowed to use theorems/statements proved in class without reproving them (**unless otherwise stated**), but you may be required to provide a precise statement of the result in question.

Practical rules during examination

- Be punctual and wait at the door until we let you in.
- Your identifying number will be preprinted on the cover sheet. Please check that it corresponds to the identifying number we sent you by email prior to the exam.
- The sheets will be distributed accordingly to the identifying number and we will provide a plan which should help you finding your place.
- Put your student identity card onto the table.
- We will provide A4-paper (no other paper is allowed in the exam room!) and write with blue or black pens.
- **Do not use pencils, erasable pens, red or green ink, and do not use Tipp-Ex.**
- Start every problem on a new sheet of paper and write your identifying number on every sheet of paper.
- Leave enough (≈ 2 cm) empty space on the margins (top, bottom and sides).
- You can solve the problems in any order you want, but please sort them in the end.
- Please write neatly! Please do not put the graders in the unpleasant situation of being incapable of reading your solutions, as this will most certainly not play in your favour!

A final word Most importantly: we are all here to value your preparation and recognize the time and effort you have spent in studying for the exam. So try to approach the test with the right degree of concentration, but also without unjustified stress and fear. If you prepare with enough diligence and care, we will most definitely see it in the exam and will be there to reward you!