

CSE 390B, Spring 2022

Building Academic Success Through Bottom-Up Computing

Midterm & Exam Reflection

CSE 390B Midterm, Examination of Examinations, Midterm
Debrief and Discussion

CSE 390B Midterm Instructions

- ❖ This exam is closed-note, closed-software
 - You may only use the midterm reference sheet
- ❖ You will have 60 minutes to complete the exam
 - We will give you a 30-minute, 10-minute, and 5-minute warning
- ❖ If you have a question, please raise your hand and the course staff will get to you shortly
- ❖ When you are finished, please hand your exam to the course staff

Test Taking Best Practices

- ❖ Survey the entire exam before beginning
 - Helps plan how much time to allocate for each problem
- ❖ Read exam directions and question statements carefully
 - Use **highlights**, underlines, circles on important details
- ❖ Answer the questions you feel the most confident in first
- ❖ If stuck on a problem, make a mark on the problem and revisit the question later

Test Taking Best Practices

- ❖ Prioritize how you will answer questions
 - Do this based on confidence level for each type of question or how long you think each will take
- ❖ Rely on a methodological approach for each question
 - Helps make taking the test feel more systematic
- ❖ If stuck on a question, demonstrate what you know
 - Many exams reward partial credit
- ❖ If time allows, double check your answers
 - Catches any small mistakes that may have been made earlier

Technical Details for Midterm

- ❖ For Boolean expressions, use $\&$, $|$, and \sim to specify And, Or, and Not, respectively
 - If you use different symbols, explicitly specify what they mean.
- ❖ When using a Mux or DMux gate, explicitly show or describe the select bits that the inputs are connected to
 - E.g., the a input of the Mux is connected to the select bit of 0
- ❖ We will show any additional clarifications on the board

Congrats! You did it!



Examination of Examinations

- ❖ Exams are not an objective measure of your learning or abilities
 - They are one type of evaluation and favor certain learning styles
 - They reflect priorities of instructor and are one view of material
 - Performance on an exam doesn't determine your capability

- ❖ Yet, our educational system frequently use high-stakes, time-pressured exams

- ❖ Our goal is to help you improve your skills related to preparing, taking, and reflecting on exams

CSE 390B Midterm Debrief

- ❖ Were the metacognitive topics of exam preparation and test taking strategies helpful?
 - Why or why not?
- ❖ How did you prepare for this midterm? What aspects of your preparation were most effective when taking the midterm?
- ❖ What test taking strategies helped you during the midterm? Were any different from the mock exam?

Lecture 12 Wrap-up

- ❖ Entering more familiar territory of software in Week 7!
 - Metacognitive Subject: Post Exam Reflection
 - Technical Subjects: Software Stack, Operating Systems, Compiler
- ❖ Project Reminders
 - Project 5 grades and feedback released next week
 - **Project 6 due next Thursday (5/12) at 11:59pm PDT**
- ❖ Late days have been updated through Project 4 on Canvas