The main purpose of the early exam was to test your readiness for this course, which is a significant factor in determining your chances of passing it (C or better) this semester. This was also your chance to make significant progress toward passing this course by getting credit for what you should have learned before this class; some of you took full advantage of this chance, but many did not. Of the questions on the early exam, only five (#13,16,18,19,20) were not easy, but even these questions would have been completely standard on an exam in MAT 125 or MAT 126. The midterms will be much harder; even though they’ll be more narrowly focused, they’ll require proficiency with the basics (tested by this exam). If you intend to stay in the class, you should review them now (and do the practice tests!).

Every question on the early exam corresponded to one or more specific topics listed on p3 of the Early Exam Information handout. Some of you apparently ignored it, along with the suggestions to do the diagnostic tests from the textbook and the practice placement tests on the Math Dept website; the minimum expectations for your performance on these tests had been available on the course website for months. The importance of exponential and log rules to this course has been emphasized multiple times; nevertheless, some of you apparently did not bother to master these over the two long weekends. Some of you even made grievous errors of the kind that were explicitly listed at the top of p7 in the Additional Course Information handout (in particular, in questions #2,7,9); such errors will carry penalty points on the remaining exams that may result in negative scores on individual problems. If you intend to ignore all the information (handouts and e-mails), put together in order to help you pass this course, then you might as well leave this course now, because you are very unlikely to pass it.

Based on your performance on the early exam (and other factors if it is ambiguous in your case), you should now make the decision whether to drop out of the class now (and take it next term) or stay in the class (perhaps waiting for the results of the first midterm).

Below is a description of what your early exam score indicates. It assumes that you who took MAT 126 (or equivalent) very recently (Spring or Summer 2010) and have never taken MAT 127. If you took MAT 127 within the past year and nearly passed (came close to the C cutoff), you might be in a marginally better situation than the description for your EE score below indicates because you may still remember a few things from MAT 127. If it has been a while since you have taken any math, you might also be in a slightly better situation than the corresponding description below indicates, because you may be very solid on some of the required background and could perhaps review the rest rather quickly.

Another factor effecting your chances of passing this course is your work on the problem sets. Thus, if you did poorly on HW1 (or did nothing on it), your chances of passing this course are worse than indicated by the description below. Even though the lowest homework score will be dropped, your taking advantage of this so early in the semester is not a good indication of your determination to pass this course. Your chances of passing this course are also lower than indicated below if you have a particularly busy schedule this semester.

0: If this exam being “only” 10% of the total grade is too little to bother showing up for, you should certainly drop the class now.
3-9: This is a very poor score, indicating that your mastery of the background necessary to pass MAT 127 is far from satisfactory. You are very unlikely to pass MAT 127 this semester and should drop down to MAT 126 now (even if you have taken it before), get an A, and take MAT 127 next term.

10-12: This is a poor score, indicating that your mastery of the background necessary to pass MAT 127 is not satisfactory. You are likely to struggle in MAT 127 this term and should consider dropping down to MAT 126 now (even if you have taken it before), getting an A, and taking MAT 127 next term. However, if you did well on HW1 and intend to put in whatever effort is required to pass MAT 127, you may want to consider waiting for the results of the first midterm.

13-15: This is a marginal score, indicating that your mastery of the background necessary to pass MAT 127 is barely satisfactory. If you intend to work hard on MAT 127, you should probably wait for the results of the first midterm.

16-18: This is pretty good. You should have a reasonable chance of doing very well in this course and a strong chance of passing it, but could still fail it if you lose focus.

20: Congratulations on the perfect score! You are solid enough on the background to aim for an A in this course, but do not get overly confident. If you let your scores fall, you are unlikely to be able to do well later on to compensate for this.

If you did poorly on the early exam, your current options are:

1) drop down to MAT 126. This might be the best option, especially if you have not yet received credit for MAT 126. If you have received credit for MAT 126, you will not receive credit again, but you might be more prepared to take MAT 127 in the spring.

(2) drop “down” to MAT 132. This is a risky option, but might be better in the long run if it works out. MAT 132 moves faster than MAT 127, but starts earlier. So you’d go through Chapter 6 again, but then MAT 132 will fly quickly through Chapters 7 and 8 (which is what you are most likely to have trouble with).

(3) withdraw from MAT 127. You’d receive a W on your transcript and will need to ask for a retake permission from Academic Advising.

(4) put lots of effort into MAT 127 in order to catch up on the background without falling behind in the course itself. Depending on how poorly you did on the early exam, your schedule outside of MAT 127, and your priorities, this may not be a realistic option. While you presumably need this class in order to graduate, failing it will not be of any benefit to you.

If you choose to stay in MAT 127 and then fail it, you will need to ask for a retake permission from Academic Advising. There is no guarantee it will be granted.

As previously stated in the Early Exam Information handout, the letter grades for the early exam are as in the table below. However, at this point this will matter only for the purposes of determining the letter grade cutoffs for the semester (by weight-averaging with the cutoffs for the remaining exams and the homework).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EE score</th>
<th>18-20</th>
<th>16-17</th>
<th>13-15</th>
<th>10-12</th>
<th>0-9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>letter grade</td>
<td>A-/A</td>
<td>B±</td>
<td>C/C+</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>F</td>
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