Basic Skills Exam - MA 1021 B ’03

As a requirement to obtain credit in MA 1021 in term B ’03, a student must demonstrate an acceptable level of competence in the basic manipulative/computational skills of one-variable differential calculus. This requirement will be satisfied by achieving a passing grade on a Basic Skills exam in Differential Calculus. The minimum score required on the Basic Skills exam to pass and satisfy the requirement will be about 70%.

The Basic Skills exam will initially be administered on Wednesday, December 17, 2003 as part of the common final for this course. For students who do not achieve a passing grade on this exam, re-takes of the exam will be given early in C term on dates to be announced.

The common final exam will be a two hour exam and will consist of 10 to 15 questions. A set of Basic Skills practice problems and sample questions from the other part of the final are available as PDF files on the course web site. Note that for the Basic Skills part of the exam, there is no partial credit. Answers are either correct and receive full credit or incorrect and receive no credit. Note also that the use of calculators and notes is not allowed on this exam.

A student who achieves a passing grade on the initial Basic Skills exam will have their course grade assigned by their instructor, based on their work in the course.

Students who do not achieve a passing grade on the initial Basic Skills exam in B ’03 will receive a grade of I (incomplete) for MA 1021 if their grade based on their work in the course is passing. Students in this situation will have two more chances to pass the Basic Skills exam. If they pass the Basic Skills exam, their grade will be changed from I to the grade corresponding to their other work in the course. Students who do not pass either of the scheduled re-takes of the Basic Skills exam will have their grades of I changed to NR and will have to repeat MA 1021.

Students whose other work in MA 1021 in B term ’03 is not up to a passing grade will receive a grade of NR in MA 1021 in B term ’03, regardless of their score on the BS-D exam.

Topics to be covered on the Basic Skills exam

- derivatives of functions involving powers of $x$ and/or trig functions
- product and quotient rules
- chain rule
- higher order derivatives
- implicit differentiation
- differentials