

## Engineering Tripos Part IA, Exposition, 2017-18

### Co-ordinator in overall charge

[Dr A Kabla](#) [1]

### Timing and Structure

2h/week Michaelmas term timetabled in laboratory sessions. Sessions may take place in Colleges as well as in all parts of the Engineering Department.

### Aims

The aims of the course are to:

- develop communication skills, both written and oral, in professional areas.
- raise awareness of the appropriate use of different writing styles (e.g. essays, technical reports, academic journal articles).
- improve confidence and ability to take a lead as an engineer.

### Objectives

As specific objectives, by the end of the course students should be able to:

- make an oral presentation of technical material to a non-specialist audience in an accessible way.
- critically analyse the treatment of data in technical articles in popular journals or the media.
- write a good report on a laboratory experiment, including treatment of errors and uncertainties.
- prepare and present balanced arguments on a controversial technical topic.

### Content

During the eight weeks of Michaelmas term you will take part in three exercises:

Your exposition leader may introduce alternative forms of these exercises.

#### Journal Club

A "Journal Club" or similar oral presentation for 15 minutes, in which you will report on a current issue of a technical periodical or similar topic agreed by your leader followed by 5 minutes of questions.

#### Laboratory Report

A Laboratory report on the Statical Equilibrium of Plane Frameworks experiment which you will undertake in the Michaelmas term (a virtual form of the experiment is available at [www-g.eng.cam.ac.uk/mmg/teaching/statics](http://www-g.eng.cam.ac.uk/mmg/teaching/statics) for students whose laboratory session is timetabled late in the term). There will be discussion about writing reports, following which you will produce a first draft which will be criticised by your peers. You will then write a final draft which will be assessed by the exposition leader. The Guide to Report Writing on the Exposition website will help with this exercise.

#### Technical Discussion/DebateA

A discussion or debate on a technical but controversial topic agreed with your leader. You will plan with your colleagues how to split up the material and you will work as a team to present one part of the argument.

### Further notes

#### ASSESSMENT

Standard credit. To reach the qualifying mark of 18/26 you must attend all the sessions required by the leader and complete the three exercises to a satisfactory standard. The report on the Statics Experiment counts for 14 out of the 26 marks.

### Coursework

[Labs & coursework](#) [2]

### Booklists

[Syllabuses and booklists](#) [3]

### Examination Guidelines

Please refer to [Form & conduct of the examinations](#) [4].

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### Links

[1] <mailto:ajk61@cam.ac.uk>

[2] <http://teaching.eng.cam.ac.uk/information/labs-coursework/part-ia/content>

[3] <http://teaching.eng.cam.ac.uk/information/syllabuses-and-booklists/part-ia/content>

[4] <https://teaching.eng.cam.ac.uk/content/form-conduct-examinations>