

GAME QUALS SURVEY

1. Did you pass the qualifying examinations on your first attempt?

	Yes	No
Number Responses	26	14
Percentages	65%	35%

2. In what areas did you take the qualifying exams?

	Number Responses	Percentages
Fluid Mechanics	35	87.5
Dynamics	18	45
Controls	15	37.5
Heat Transfer	14	35
Solid Mechanics	14	35
Thermodynamics	8	20
Design	6	15
Manufacturing	6	15
Optics	4	10
Bioengineering	1	2.5

4. What is your estimate at the percentage of students who passed the qualifiers?

Number Responses	36
Average Guess	64.8%

On the Preparation for the Exam

1. How long before the qualifying exams did you start studying?

3.4 months

2. How many hours per week did you spend studying for the exams?

25.3 hrs average

3. Were you enrolled in a study group? If so please tell us about it.

	passed 1 st try	failed 1 st try
Study Group	72 %	50%
No Study Group	28%	50 %

	Total
Study Group	67.5%
No Study Group	32.5%

4. What kind of material did you utilize for studying? Please list them according to the relevance they had for your preparation.

- 1 Old Exams
- 2 Class Materials
- 3 Text Books of Classes

5. What classes did you take to prepare yourself for the exams? (give class numbers)

Fluid Mechanics	2.25
	2.21
Heat Transfer	2.52
	2.55
	2.51
	2.56
Thermodynamics	2.42
	2.006
Control	2.14
	2.151
Dynamics	2.032
Solid Mechanics	2.083
	2.305
	2.071
Manufacturing	2.810
Design	2.75
Optics	2.710
Bioengineering	BEH.410J
	BEH.430J

6. Were the classes you took good preparation for the exams? If not please tell us which classes were ineffective.

2.151

2.21

These were considered irrelevant courses for quals, the rest of classes were considered effective.

8. Did you think the ME Department provided you with enough resources to have a good preparation?

Yes	17	Yes Percent	44.7 %
No	21	No Percent	55.3 %

9. What materials would you have liked to have had available to you to improve your preparation?

- 1 More old tests with solutions; make all prior exams available online
- 2 More information in the span of each exam

General Questions regarding the Exam

2. What was the level of difficulty of your exams? Please in overall assign a value from 1 to 10, 10 being the most difficult.

Average 7.5

3. Were the exams written clearly? Please tell us overall if the exams were clearly stated

	passed 1 st try	failed 1 st try
Yes	87.5 %	71.4%
No	12.5%	28.6 %

	Total
Yes	81.6%
No	18.4%

4. Would you like to receive your exams back after grading?

	Total
Yes	61%
No	39%

5. Would you like to discuss your grade with the grader?

	Total
Yes	53%
No	47%

6. Would you like to know who wrote the examination?

	Total
Yes	47%
No	53%

Written Exams

1. What was the level of difficulty of your exams? Please for each exam you took assign a value from 1 to 10, 10 being the most difficult.

Bioengineering	8
Control	7.46
Design	7.5
Dynamics	7.31
Fluid Mechanics	7.06
Heat Transfer	8.15
Manufacturing	6.3
Optics	8.25
Solid Mechanics	6.33
Thermodynamics	6.13
Average difficulty	7.25

2. Were the written exams clearly stated? Please tell us about every exam you took and say if it was clear or not

	Passed 1 st try	Failed 1 st try
Yes	91.6%	71.4%
No	8.4%	28.6%

	Total
Yes	84.2%
No	15.8%

3. Do you think that the ME Department was effective in giving you the information about the format and content of the written exams?

	Passed 1 st try	Failed 1 st try
Yes	79.2%	71.4%
No	20.8%	28.6%

	Total
Yes	76.3%
No	23.7%

4. Are you happy with the time given to solve the written exams? If not please tell us what would be the ideal time to take the written exams.

	Passed 1 st try	Failed 1 st try
Yes	68.2%	69.2%
No	31.8%	30.8%

	Total
Yes	68.6%
No	31.4%

5. Do you think your written exams were fairly graded?

	Passed 1 st try	Failed 1 st try
Yes	90.9%	61.5%
No	9.1%	38.5%

	Total
Yes	80%
No	20%

6. Would you like to be provided with the Professor's solution for the written exams you took?

	Passed 1 st try	Failed 1 st try
Yes	52.2%	85.7%
No	47.8%	14.3%

	Total
Yes	64.9%
No	37.1%

7. Would like to see your written exam grades before taking the oral examinations?

	Passed 1 st try	Failed 1 st try
Yes	4.3%	26.7%
No	95.7%	73.4%

	Total
Yes	13.2%
No	86.8%

8. Do you think it is adequate to have students acting as Proctors?

	Passed 1 st try	Failed 1 st try
Yes	91.3%	60%
No	8.7%	40%
	Total	
Yes	78.9%	
No	21.1%	

9. Would you like to make the written exams anonymous? Instead of your name you write a code on your exam

	Passed 1 st try	Failed 1 st try
Yes	36.4%	46.7%
No	63.6%	53.3%
	Total	
Yes	40.5%	
No	59.5%	

10. Do you think that by making the written exams anonymous that your marks would change?

	Passed 1 st try	Failed 1 st try
Yes	9.1%	26.6%
No	90.9%	73.4%
	Total	
Yes	16.2%	
No	83.8%	

Oral Exams

1. What was the level of difficulty of your oral exams? Please for each oral exam you took assign a value from 1 to 10, 10 being the most difficult.

Bioengineering	8
Control	8.4
Design	7.2
Dynamics	6.6
Fluid Mechanics	7.111
Heat Transfer	8.45
Manufacturing	7.3
Optics	8.75
Solid Mechanics	7.4
Thermodynamics	7.7
Average Difficulty	7.7

2. Were the oral exams clearly stated? Please tell us about every exam you took and say if it was clear or not

	Passed 1 st try	Failed 1 st try
Yes	86.6%	58.3%
No	13.4%	41.7%
	Total	
Yes	74.1%	
No	25.9%	

3. Do you think that the ME Department was effective in giving you the information about the format and content of the oral exams?

	Passed 1 st try	Failed 1 st try
Yes	91.7%	78.6%
No	8.7%	21.4%
	Total	
Yes	86.8%	
No	13.2%	

4. Are you happy with the time given to solve and present the oral exams? If not please tell us what would be the ideal time to take the oral exams

	Passed 1 st try	Failed 1 st try
Yes	81.8%	60%
No	18.2%	40%
	Total	
Yes	75%	
No	25%	

5. Do you think your oral exams were fairly graded?

	Passed 1 st try	Failed 1 st try
Yes	95.5%	46.2%
No	4.5%	53.8%
	Total	
Yes	77.1%	
No	22.9%	

6. Would you like to be provided with the Professor's solution for the oral exams you took?

	Passed 1 st try	Failed 1 st try
Yes	50%	78.6%
No	50%	21.4%
	Total	
Yes	60.5%	
No	39.5%	

7. Do you think there should be a limit for the faculty present at the oral exams? Ideally how many you would like?

	Passed 1 st try	Failed 1 st try
Yes,	47.6%	72.7%
No	52.4%	27.3%
	Total	
Yes	56.3%	
No	43.7%	

8. Do you think that there was any faculty member who acted excessively aggressive when making questions? Do you think there was some sort of biased behavior by the faculty?

	Passed 1 st try	Failed 1 st try
Yes	21.7%	61.5%
No	78.3%	38.5%

	Total
Yes	36.1%
No	63.9%

9. Do you think that the oral exam in a specific area should have the same problem statement and questions for all the students taking the exam?

	Passed 1 st try	Failed 1 st try
Yes	87.5%	92.9%
No	12.5%	7.1%

	Total
Yes	84.5%
No	10.5%

About the Overall Grading System and Evaluation System

1. Do you think the passing marks are too high?

	Passed 1 st try	Failed 1 st try
Yes	18.2%	42.9%
No	81.8%	57.1%

	Total
Yes	27.8%
No	72.2%

2. Would you like to change the passing criteria?

	Passed 1 st try	Failed 1 st try
Yes	18.2%	46.2%
No	81.8%	53.8%
	Total	
Yes	28.6%	
No	71.4%	

4. Why do you think ME students complain about the qualifying examinations and students from other departments, lets say AeroAstro, do not? What do you think is different?

- 1 Scores are not published
- 2 if you pass you do not know how you did
- 3 Inconsistency in the level of difficulty of exams throughout time
- 4 The fact that one has only 2 chances
- 5 Too many exams in a few days
- 6 None one want to take the quals twice and then be asked to leave after a couple of years
- 7 Failure percentage is too high
- 8 Thesis exam is not objective
- 9 lack of accurate information about the passing rate
- 10 Has a low first attempt passing rate compared to other departments
- 11 Qualls are used to weed people out
- 12 we just complain louder because we're not used to harsh treatment
- 13 Passing criteria is not well defined
- 14 Faculty are very secretive when meeting to make decisions about who passes and who not, students feel people is screwing them at their backs.
- 15 Students who fail blame to the system instead of recognizing that they are poorly prepared