

Oral exam in FYS3600/4600 Fall 2019

Sensor (and student) Guidance for the oral examination for the course FYS3600 and FYS4600 at the Department of Physics, UiO

Preparation for the examination:

To help candidates prepare for the exams, the following measures are taken:

- During the semester, a few “typical” examination questions were provided so the students have an idea about the type of questions to expect.
- An old examination is available on the webpage of the course.
- A list of the most important topics is available on the webpage of the course (based on the “learning outcome”).
- An “exercise session” is set up as a preparation for the exam. During this session, the lecturer and students role-play the exam: that is, students get typical exam questions which they can solve on the whiteboard/blackboard in plenum. It is facultative to join and to answer the questions.

During the oral examination

During the oral examination, only the candidate, the lecturers, and the sensor are present. It is not allowed to bring any textbook, notes nor any relevant (electronic) equipment. Approximately 40 minutes are allocated for each student. The candidate can choose between both Norwegian and English, and whether to write on paper or on the whiteboard/blackboard.

Several sheets of paper with different set of topics and questions will be placed on a table in the examination room. Each of them usually covers at least two to three essential parts of the curriculum. The sheets will be placed so that it is not possible to read the questions beforehand. The position of the sheets on the table and the set of questions will (may) be randomly changed between the candidates.

After entering the examination room, the candidate must pick one of the question sheets (without knowing the questions on that sheet) and get started answering the questions immediately. It is not allowed to pick a different sheet if the candidate is not satisfied.

It is the lecturers who lead the examination, and a pleasant, positive atmosphere is sought after. The lecturers usually follow the order of the question sheets, which are made such that the first questions are a bit more general, followed by more difficult and in-depth questions.

During the examination, the lecturers are allowed to ask details about the explanations from the candidates and additional questions related to the topics on the question sheets. It is then common to return to simpler questions when/if the knowledge is missing in a theme. This allow to establish more precisely the depth and breadth of the knowledge of the candidate.

After the candidate has answered the questions from the lecturers, the sensor is allowed to ask a few additional questions related to the themes on the sheet drawn by the candidate.

Before the end of the examination, the lecturers give a brief feedback about the project delivered by the candidate. Note that for Master's students (FYS4600), at this time, questions about the summary of relevant literature may be expected (as it is part of their pensum).

During the examination, notes are made as to the difficulty of the questions and the quality of the answers of the candidate (based on the grading characteristics below). The notes will ensure that the grading discussion after the examination is as thorough as possible. The notes are taken care of after the exam is over.

Grading system:

The oral exam counts for 70% of the final grade (30% for the project).

For each question, the candidate will be assigned a grade/percentage based on the question and answer. The weighted sum of the percentages of the exam and of the project will define the final grade, which will reflect defined, qualitative criteria from UiO

(<https://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/grading-system/>, visited last time 18.11.2019)

The percentages given in the following link are used as a guidance: <https://innsida.ntnu.no/wiki/-/wiki/English/Grading+scale+using+percentage+points> (visited last time 18.11.2019)