

AME Tutorial Guide

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October, 2020

Overview

Tutorials for *Advanced Mathematical Economics* and *Mathematical Microeconomics 1* run every Thursday, 4:10pm-6pm, starting in week 2. Tutorials are compulsory for *Advanced Mathematical Economics*, and recommended for *Mathematical Microeconomics 1*. You will work in groups of two to five students on homework problems. There are five tutors:

- Andrew Clausen (Economics),
- Chris Stapenhurst (Economics),
- Emily Roff (Mathematics),
- Fabian Germ (Mathematics), and
- Reuben Wheeler (Mathematics).

We will who roam between groups to give help and feedback.

Many students will work on the latest week's homework. But you and your group should work at a pace that suits you, which might mean working on older homework questions. We also encourage students to get feedback on their answers (again both current and old homework), both from other students and from the tutors.

This year, we will have both online and in-person tutorials this year (social distancing rules permitting). Since this is new to us, we will probably have to revise our plan several times until we find arrangements that work well for us.

Attendance

Attendance is compulsory, and will be taken via Top Hat. Each week there will be a secret code given in the tutorial. You will need to either:

- install the Top Hat app on your phone (Android and iPhone) and use the join code 384137, or
- send the secret code in a text message to +447903574424, and follow the instructions you receive in the reply.

Group work and assessment

The homework is assessed on effort only. Each student should submit their own answers.

We encourage you to do a mix of self-study and group-study:

- Self-study is important for you to ensure you can answer questions independently and under exam conditions, and
- Group-study is important for you to get feedback, learn how to attack problems in different ways, and practice talking and listening mathematics (not just reading and writing). There is an old saying “you don’t understand anything properly until you have taught it to someone else.” In other words, you might *think* you understand something well, but the process of explaining it to someone else might expose your blind spots. Group study is especially important for writing proofs, because there are many correct proofs as well as many ways to mess up a proof. Sample solutions are unhelpful for telling you whether *your* answer is right or wrong. Feedback from students – and from us – is essential. Another reason is that writing proofs is a creative endeavour, and learning to talk about proofs is important for developing your mathematical creativity and intuition. Please note that the marking scheme is based on a quality scale, not a competitive performance. If all students support each other well, then everyone will get higher marks.

If you find a group you like, we recommend that you stick with it all semester. We recommend that you choose a group that is appropriate to your background:

- “fresh” if you have not studied any university-level maths or philosophy courses,
- “experienced” if you have studied between one and three maths or analytical philosophy courses (such as Logic 1), or
- “joint” if you are doing joint honours in mathematics and economics, or have studied four or more maths or analytical philosophy courses.

Of course, you can choose any group you like. But sticking to your level is a good idea for two reasons:

- You will likely have similar problems as others at your level, which means you will benefit the most from the help your group gets from the tutors.
- You will likely work at a similar pace as the rest of your group. This means you will work on the same things at the same time, so you will help each other more.

In-person tutorials

In-person tutorials will be held in the Lister Learning Centre, Room G1 (“Davidson lecture theatre”). Due to social distancing rules, we will only have capacity for 15 students. Since

there are about 50 students in Edinburgh (and another 15 outside of Edinburgh), this means that you will only be able to attend about three of the nine tutorials.

One reason for running in-person tutorials is to allow students to meet each other in-person.

If you would like to come to the in-person tutorial in week 2, then please sign up here: <https://doodle.com/poll/vf5ewtaenexfp33q>. You will have to select the row you will sit in, for social distancing reasons. Students must wear face masks when they enter and leave. Face masks are optional (but recommended) while you are seated.

Online tutorials

We plan to use Microsoft Teams for tutorials. While it is possible to use Teams without installing it, we strongly recommend you do download it and install it <https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/download-app>. Versions are available for Android, iPhone, Linux, Mac, Windows.

You can connect to the Advanced Mathematical Economics tutorial by following this link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/l/team/19%3a77c46f5c85b4484fb08331f2ec1d600b%40thread.tacv2/conversations?groupId=8911e179-9350-4154-aa22-0ee8fdfbd487&tenantId=2e9f06b0-1669-4589-8789-10a06934dc61>

Each group will have its own channel with names like “red (fresh)” or “marigold (joint)”. So you might choose the “red (fresh)” group for the whole semester. Or you might decide to change group, etc.

Communicating with your group

To communicate with your group, first select your group’s channel. When you are in a tutorial (i.e. Thursdays 4:10pm), please **join** your group’s meeting. (If you are the first one to arrive, you can start a meeting by clicking “**Meet**” on the top right corner.) Then, you can communicate by:

1. **talking via audio and/or video**,
2. **typing to each other**, by clicking on the speech-bubble box located near the hang-up button,
3. **writing on the group’s whiteboard**, by (i) clicking on “open share tray” located next to the microphone button, and (ii) selecting Microsoft Whiteboard, and
4. **screen sharing**, by (i) opening a program that you would like to share, e.g. a PDF viewer with your homework, (ii) clicking on “open share tray” in Teams, as above, and (iii) selecting the window you would like to share.

You can also have meetings outside of tutorial times. You can also exchange messages and files when you are not having a meeting.

Getting help

Tutors will roam between groups to give help and feedback. If you would like a tutor to come straight away, then you can type a message onto your group's chat with the tutor's name, i.e. @germ, @roff, @stapenhurst, or @wheeler. (Andrew Clausen will run the in-person tutorial.) This “mention” will attract the attention of the tutor.

If you are having trouble finding a suitable group to work with, please contact @Wheeler inside teams.

If you are having technical problems during the tutorial, then please email Emily.Roff@ed.ac.uk.