

# Instructions for the grader

Jeff Mermin's class

**What to grade** Please grade three or four problems every week. I don't care which problems you choose to grade, as long as you keep a record and aren't too predictable.

**My philosophy** I am much more interested in the students' thinking than in their ability to get the right number at the bottom of the page.

Please, pay considerably more attention to the students' explanations, and to the logical flow of their work, than you do to their numerical correctness. (In particular, the students will have an opportunity to see many problems worked on the board before they are due. A correct answer without supporting work signifies nothing.)

The students' job on homework is more about expressing their methodology clearly than it is about getting numerically correct answers. Ideally, a well-written homework solution should be such that an average classmate could work a similar problem after reading it, even without other exposure to the lesson. If you, as grader, have trouble understanding what a student is doing, he doesn't deserve full credit.

My grading template would look something like this (but feel free to ignore it):

- 5 points
  - 1 point for stating the problem at the beginning.
  - 2 points for correct reasoning leading to a correct solution.
  - 2 points for clarity and neatness

Please, write lots of constructive comments wherever they are warranted.

**Timetable** Please try to return graded homework to me within a week of my collecting it in class.

**Late policy** Students will on occasion turn in late homework. I have no official late penalty, but feel free to take longer than usual to turn these papers around.

**Collaboration policy** Students are permitted, even encouraged, to work together on homework. When they do so, they are required to acknowledge one another. If you happen to notice unacknowledged collaboration, write a gentle reminder.