

Practice Exam Tuesday February 23rd at 8:00 PM

Greetings!

First, thank you for all of your efforts to make physics 211 go so smoothly. Perhaps the title of this email gave you a scare, so let me begin by saying the point of this practice exam is to reduce your stress not increase it!

How can an exam lower your stress? This is really a practice run to get you ready for the real first exam that will happen on March 2nd. Specifically, it is a chance to try out the proctoring system and exam software in a safe environment where your grade can NOT be lowered. Here's how the grading will work. If you score better on exam 1 than you do on this practice exam, we will ignore the practice exam. If you score better on the practice exam than you do on exam 1, your exam 1 score will be comprised of 25% of your practice exam score and 75% of your exam 1 score.

By default everyone has been signed up for the practice exam at 8:00 pm with a schedule length of 1 hour to complete 15 questions (note, on the real exams you will be given 2 hours to complete approximately 24 questions). If you would like to take the exam at a different time, you can sign up for the conflict exam at 6 pm Tuesday, or 6 am on Wednesday morning in the course gradebook <https://my.physics.illinois.edu/gradebook/>.

The physics exams will be proctored by the physics TAs (not the Computer Based Testing Facility). The zoom link for your proctor will be available in the course gradebook. You should join the zoom call 15-20 minutes before your exam starts using your phone to ensure plenty of time for getting the camera angle correct, please make sure your phone is charged and plugged in during the exam (this aspect is the same as used by the CBTF <https://cbtf.engr.illinois.edu/cbtf-online/students/phone.html>). Once you are checked into the exam, you will have access to the Physics 211 Online Exams Spring 2021 course at <https://smart.physics.illinois.edu/>. There will be an honor code assignment available in this course that you must complete before you are able to see the exam. During the exam you may use scratch paper, a pencil/pen, a calculator and the formula sheet (either online or printed out).

Below are a few notes on our proctoring that may be slightly different from those of the CBTF.

Zoom Settings:

You should have your device muted, but your volume should be up so that you can hear any message from the proctor.

Exam Start:

Everyone will be allowed to start the exam at their scheduled start time. If some students have not had their camera position approved by the proctor yet, they will be allowed to start, and if adjustments are required the TA will communicate with them individually during the exam by

moving them into a breakout room where they can talk (be sure your volume is up so you can hear the TA).

Communicating with the TA:

If you need to communicate with the TA during the exam, you can wave at your camera, or use the “raise hand” option on zoom. At the first available opportunity, the TA will move you to a breakout room and unmute you. Note, the TA may also initiate this if they need to contact you, so please keep your volume up on your phone during the exam.

Exam End:

When you have finished the exam, log out of the course, then in the zoom chat send a private message to the TA that says “done”. You can then leave the zoom proctoring session. You do not need to wait for the TA unless you have a question. As usual the honor code prohibits you speaking with anyone about the exam (even saying it was difficult/easy/long/short) until everyone has taken the exam.

Before the practice exam you may want to take a look at the [sample practice exam](https://smart.physics.illinois.edu/) on <https://smart.physics.illinois.edu/> that appears on the course calendar on February 22nd. This activity is not for credit but shows the format of our online exam which has been modified from the usual homework format based on student feedback. Notice that the entire exam is always visible, and when you click on a choice, the answer is immediately submitted (there isn't a submit button, you may change your answer as many times as you want, only your final answer will be graded).

Good luck with all of your studies and thank you for all of your efforts to help us provide you with a secure environment in which to complete your exam.

Jake and Tim (on behalf of the entire physics 211 team)