

18.03 GRADING POLICY, SPRING 2025

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Weighting: homework 4, midterms 6, final 5.

Grade computation algorithm:

1. Your midterm-final average is computed first using the 6:5 weighting.
2. The raw homework grade each week is a weighted average: 30% Part A (MITx), 70% Part B (Gradescope).
3. Each weekly homework grade below your midterm-final average (even if zero or missing) is boosted up to that average, assuming that a serious attempt was made on at least 3/4 of the assignments.
4. Your homework average is computed as the average of the adjusted homework scores.
5. Your total numeric grade is computed using the 4:6:5 weighting.
6. Applying a function (to be determined) yields your letter grade.
 - A numeric grade of 90% or above guarantees an A- or above.
 - A numeric grade of 80% or above guarantees an B- or above.
 - A numeric grade of 70% or above guarantees an C- or above.

The actual function may be more generous than this, depending on the difficulty level of the exams. Following MIT policy, your grade does not depend on how others are doing; the percentage of students who will get an A, B, etc. is not predetermined. *Note:* Canvas, Gradescope, and MITx are not doing these calculations, so do not rely on what may be shown there.

Rationale: Grades are intended to reflect mastery of the subject matter, not effort. The point of the grading scheme is that the homework assignments are your chances to make mistakes, while you are first learning the concepts. Even if your scores on these are far from perfect, you can still do well in the course provided that you learn from your mistakes; it is your final understanding of the material that I consider important. On the other hand, if you are the sort of person whose exam performance often does not measure up with your understanding, because of nervousness or whatever, then the homework can serve as a partial safety net.

Incompletes: A grade of I (incomplete) will be given only when circumstances beyond the student's control have prevented the student from completing a minor part of the work for the course, and the student has been doing passing work up until the circumstances arose; in addition, the student must have notified the course administrator and recitation instructor of the difficulty as early as possible.