

[To Cheat or Not to Cheat Sheet]

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[Background]

- Information Systems Intro subject
- Mandatory all Commerce Students
- Approx 600 – 700
- 1st semester / 1st year

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[Delivery & Assessment Style]

- Established as a top-down loading subject with memorisation of large quantities of techno-facts as major passing qualification (lecture & exam)
- Software component compromised time & engagement options
- Changed focus but had to retain established criteria

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[Open, Closed or Cheat Sheets]

- Data-dense exam
- Excessive coverage required...
- Normal assessment = closed book exam & approx 45% failure / CP
- Possibilities to assist / overcome:
- Open book exam
- "Cheat Sheets"

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[Open Book Exam option?]

- In past, colleagues have complained about high failure rate of Open Book options (anecdotal):
- “Students believe they don’t need to study because they’ll have the book in the exam, therefore do worse than not having the book”

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[“Cheat Sheet” option]

- Theory – With only 1 x A4 sheet of paper (2 pages) to condense all “critical info” for the exam, students need to evaluate the material / text and make decisions about “most valuable” and summarise (therefore studying with better and more constructive focus than often achieved).

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[“Cheat Sheet” option – Prep]

- To prepare students for Exam, and to make clear the point and use of “Cheat sheets”
- a 2 hr Exam Prep lecture was given, and
- an electronic Exam Prep & Review Forum was opened.

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[Exam prep Lecture]

- Why “Cheat Sheet” option being offered
- Risk of Fail grade if used unwisely
- How to summarise key points
- Value of diagrams & bullet points rather than paragraphs
- Minimal marks for “text-perfect” answers not rephrased to own words to exhibit ownership of concept/understanding

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["Cheat Sheet" option – Reality]

- Comments on Exam Prep & Review Forum...

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[Exam Prep & Review Forum...]

- Exam Prep & Review**
Instead of individual student consultations prior to the exams, I will be monitoring **this forum site** where **all** of you can see and share the answers to any one individual's consultation.

Every morning for one hour from 9:00am - 10:00am from Monday 11 - Friday 15 June and again Monday 18 & Tuesday 19 June I will be monitoring the Exam Prep & Review Forum, responding to student questions and feedback, and giving you feedback myself.

... over

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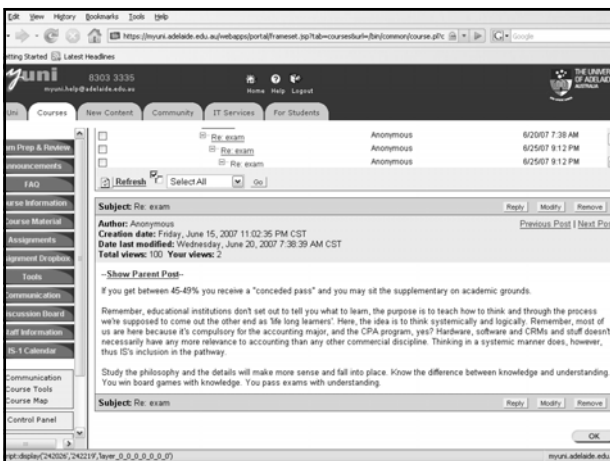
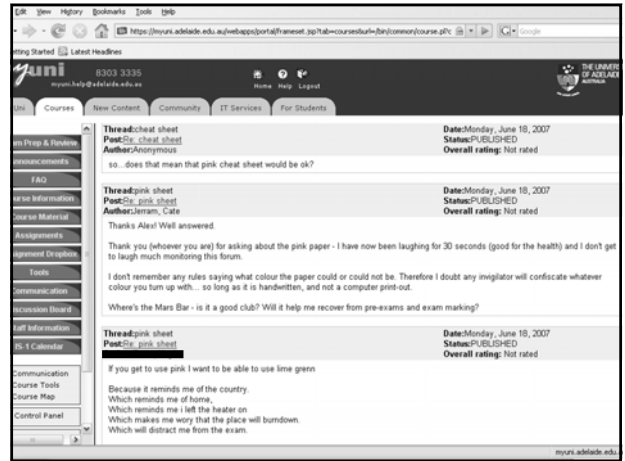
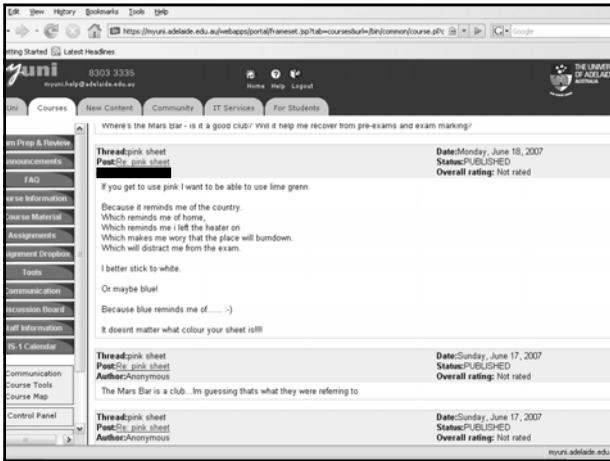
[Exam Prep & Review Forum...]

- PLEASE participate, answering each others' questions, which will be invaluable for you as well as the person whose question or work you respond to! I will let you know if you are concentrating time and energy on unnecessary focus, or if you are not going deep or broad enough in your approaches. I will give you specific feedback on how to improve your answers or when an answer is a good one, etc. You may, if you wish, post your answers to previous Exam questions (be reasonable, be selective, and keep it short!) and I will give feedback. I will not post official answers to past exam questions (against policy). But I will respond to your work, your answers and **most** particularly to your feedback to **each other's** answers!

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The screenshot shows a forum interface with a navigation menu on the left and a list of threads on the right. The threads are:

- Thread: pink sheet**
Post: pink sheet
Author: Anonymous
 we dont take the exam at mass bar, dont we?
Date: Sunday, June 17, 2007
Status: PUBLISHED
Overall rating: Not rated
- Thread: pink sheet**
Post: pink sheet
Author: Anonymous
 Providing it doesn't distract other students with it's wild-and-craziness you should be ok with pink paper.
Date: Saturday, June 16, 2007
Status: PUBLISHED
Overall rating: Not rated
- Thread: pink sheet**
Post: pink sheet
Author: Anonymous
 not really =>.. we been posting loads of problems since dis morning. the thins is, maybe da pink sheet can calm me down? becuz dis pink n not so formal looking? -> dont know. we just stated my revision for IS. and lots more to know? :(
Date: Saturday, June 16, 2007
Status: PUBLISHED
Overall rating: Not rated
- Thread: pink sheet**
Post: pink sheet
Author: Anonymous
 if thats the biggest dilemma you've got at the moment, you must be doing pretty well...
Date: Saturday, June 16, 2007
Status: PUBLISHED
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- Thread: pink sheet**
Post: pink sheet
Author: Anonymous
 Would it be ok if my cheat sheet is pink? or does it need to be a plain white norm ones?
Date: Saturday, June 16, 2007
Status: PUBLISHED
Overall rating: Not rated



Physical samples

- See copies of "cheat sheets" produced by students...

[Preliminary Conclusions]

- As used in IS-1 2007, Cheat Sheets NOT a good idea – did not support learning for poor students (though did for good students)

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[2008 Exam – to cheat or not?]

- Revisit “Cheat Sheets” for 2008 Exam
- Possibly revisit for Summer School (failed 2007 students’ intensive)
- More prescriptive in
 - PowerPoints
 - Lectures
 - Forum
- Give samples / examples
 - Useful cheat sheets
 - Poor cheat sheets / not useful

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[2008 Exam – to cheat or not?]

- May not be an issue as moving to case-based exam?

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