

Curtin University, Semester 2, 2026
ECOM 5005
Tutorial Guide

This is a guide to the sorts of things you should do before your tutorial and during your tutorial each week. Each week's tutorial consists of three parts: (i) short answer questions (ii) data exercise (iii) Pearson - MyLab. Not all points given below will be applicable to all tutorial questions. The first points below are particularly appropriate if you have some idea how to approach the problem while the latter points are particularly appropriate if you are having difficulties with the problem. Feel free (and encouraged!) to discuss the tutorial questions with your classmates. During the tutorial you will be expected to discuss the problems and the points below may be a useful guide.

- Write down the solution to the tutorial problem. This may involve a number or a brief sentence or two.
- Provide an argument as to why you believe your solution is correct.
- This may include the working that you employed to arrive at your solution, or a more detailed discussion of why you believe you are correct.
- An alternative solution to the problem.
- What you have assumed when you answered the problem.
- Possible questions that lead on from the problem.
- How this problem relates to previous problems or topics covered in the unit.
- Why (or why not) you think the problem was a sensible question to ask.
- Possible ambiguities concerning the problem and questions that may clear up such ambiguities.
- If you could not find a solution, a summary of the methods you tried and why you think they didn't work.

Before the tutorial you are expected to prepare yourself for the tutorial. This should not represent a major time commitment (an hour should suffice if you are up to date with the relevant material for these tutorial questions, as covered in lectures). For example you may need to perform a few calculations with your calculator or EXCEL, or draw a histogram or plot with EXCEL, prior to the tutorial. Even just thinking about the problems while travelling to university is very valuable.

You should have your answers written down. This will help you to clarify your answers. Notice that tutorial participation is key to success because some objectives can be more easily demonstrated in a tutorial than in a formal written examination or assignment. Statistics is a subject where discussions with other people is very

important. Not only do statisticians have to constantly interact with people such as economists (and vice-versa), but the subject statistics itself is all about constructing arguments to convince other people of a particular point of view using logical, scientific arguments. You should learn to use these arguments, and to understand other economists who use these arguments.

Note that the primary aim of the tutorials is for you to explain to other students and your tutor why your answer is correct, and asking questions about the solutions provided by others. Do not be too concerned if you feel you ask more questions than have answers (asking a good question is usually harder than giving a good answer!). Many tutorial problems will have a variety of answers or approaches, and the more questions you ask the more you are likely to learn.

Asking questions is not a sign of ignorance, but a sign of learning.