How to succeed

The University of Kent
School of Computing
Keep on top of things
Too much reading, assignment deadlines, things you don't understand

- Teaching
- Something important you don't understand
- Get it sorted, quickly
- Otherwise it will just grow and grow

Image courtesy of Wikipedia
Follow instructions

(1) Getting instructions

You will get very clear instructions via
- Handbook
- By email
- On Moodle page
- Verbal in lectures

Most university and school information is on our websites

(2) Following instructions

They are given for a reason...
If you don't understand them, ask
Team activity

(1) Get into teams of 3, 4 or 5

(2) Take a sheet of paper

(3) Following the instructions on the next page step-by-step

(4) First team to complete the activities wins!

Ready....?
1. Quickly pick a team captain.
2. Read all of these instructions then continue.

3. What is $16 + 32 + 64 - 2$?
4. Subtract the answer from the room number we are in (PK???).
5. Write the answer on a piece of paper.

6. Draw three circles approximately 2cm in diameter on your paper.
7. Put a tick in TWO of the circles you drew in item 6.
8. Each team member sign your name at the foot of the page.

9. When you get to this point in the test, stand up, then sit down and continue with the next item.
10. Next to the circles, quickly draw what you think a bicycle looks like from overhead.
11. Find the answer to qn. 5, divide it by 10 and write the result in the EMPTY circle from qn. 6.

12. In capital letters, write the 5th, 10th, 9th and 20th letters of the alphabet.
13. If you think you are the first group to get this far, call out “we're in the lead”.
14. Underline all of the EVEN numbers you have written on your paper.

15. Draw triangles around any numbers you wrote that are NOT inside circles.
16. Now you’ve finished reading all the instructions, obey only 1, 2, 16 & 17.
17. Stand up and say, “we won!” - show your completed sheet to the lecturer.
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2. Read all of these instructions then continue.

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Take notes

Do you have a perfect memory?

If not, you'll need to **take notes**.

Here are some of the things you will get verbally, not written down:

- Items to focus on
- Exam hints
- What others found difficult
- Aide memoirs
- Points to remember
- Useful information for later
- The meaning of...
Let's see what you can remember
Questions

1. What was just behind the eggs (bottom left)?

2. There were three parasols. What colour were they?

3. How much were the tomatoes?

4. What colour was the table(cloth) that the eggs were on?

5. There was a lady on the right carrying a box. What colour was her T-shirt?

6. In the bottom right there were some sunflowers. How many of those pots had handles?

7. What day does the Peterborough Farmers' Market meet each week?
Fitness Centre Membership
(for the brain)

What is the best way to get fit?

A) Skip most of the fitness sessions, don't use the machines, don't exercise at home, hang around with friends who don't exercise and don't want to get fit.

B) Attend the fitness sessions, use the machines, exercise a bit at home, hang around with friends who want to get fit and who push themselves to exercise.
Plagiarism
(don't)

Quoting code and text

Remember that when you quote material, you MUST either own it or have the RIGHTS to quote it.

Be extremely careful...

Copying ideas, text, programs, diagrams from websites, papers, or other people without permission or acknowledgement is called

PLAGIARISM
Plagiarism

You know you have plagiarised when:

1. You copy-and-paste ANY TEXT or CODE written by others into your program or document. Unless you are “quoting” it.

2. You copy-and-paste ANY FIGURE that was not created by you. Unless you state specifically where it was copied from (you also need to check the licence).

3. You take an idea from someone else and then pretend that it is your idea.
Plagiarism

The consequence of plagiarism

1. We will find out

You'll fail. Nobody will trust you in future. You won't have learned the topic, so you've missed out on an important skill.

2. It's not good for you anyway

You know you've cheated, you will lose your own self-respect and won't have confidence to face this topic in future.
Plagiarism

The consequence of plagiarism

Undergraduate Students
You will fail your work, maybe your entire degree.

Writing Papers / Books / Websites
Extremely serious – if found guilty you may never be allowed to have a paper or book published again. Maybe also a fine to pay, especially if this is online.

In Work
Most likely you will lose your job.
Plagiarism

The consequence of plagiarism
The German Defence Minister lost his job in 2011 when he was found to have copied text in his thesis (written 5 years before) without a citation.

German Defence Minister Guttenberg resigns over thesis

The German army was being restructured under Mr zu Guttenberg, so his departure leaves a gap in government.

German Defence Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg has stepped down after he was found to have copied large parts of his 2006 university doctorate thesis.

Mr Guttenberg, considered until recently a possible candidate for chancellor, has already been stripped of his PhD.

He told a news conference that it was "the most painful step of my life".
Plagiarism
What is intellectual property?

Imagine that I am a painter.

I paint beautiful paintings and sell them to make money. One day you walk into my shop and steal a painting: you just take it from the wall and then walk out without paying...

I call the police, they track you down, arrest you and you go to prison.

Is this fair? Why?
Plagiarism
What is intellectual property?

Imagine that I write software.

I create amazing software – efficient, fast and reliable.

One day you steal some of my code. You just download it and use it as your own, pretending you wrote it.

I call the police,

TODAY THEY JUST LAUGH AT ME
Plagiarism
What is intellectual property?

TODAY THEY JUST LAUGH AT ME
BUT TIMES ARE CHANGING... SOON, THEY WILL ARREST
YOU AND YOU WILL SUFFER THE SAME CONSEQUENCE
AS SOMEONE WHO STEALS A PAINTING.
What you **should** do

Know *what* you are *studying*.

Read the *notes* (ideally *BEFORE* the lecture/class).

Bring a *notepad and pen* to EVERY lecture. *Use them.*

*Review* your own *notes*+*lecture notes* in the evening.

If the lecturer sets a *question* – attempt it... this is how to *train your brain*.

If there are *extra readings* given, *read them* – don't ignore them.

*Read the textbook*. Not just the chapters that are set, but try and *read ahead* to the *next topic* too.
Final words for university life

Try to **maintain a balance in life**

Find ways of **studying** that **work for you**

*Nothing goes perfectly* (for long). We all hit bad times; just learn to recognise these and **work through them** until things start to look up again – and please **seek support**

Have a **positive mental attitude & keep enthusiastic** about what you are **learning**

Keep your mind and body healthy

**Enjoy** your time in **university** and make the most of it