

Collecting and using your TMA feedback – advice from your fellow students

Reading the feedback on your marked TMA can be a bit nerve-racking, but it can also be a really important part of your learning. A recent survey produced a great deal of valuable advice from students, which we're sharing with you here. All the quotes in green are taken directly from comments by students – and they're just representative examples of topics which were mentioned dozens of times. This is the voice of experience!

Some preliminary advice – doing and handing in the TMA

Complete the dummy TMA [i.e., TMA00]

Make sure to read all the guidance about submitting TMAs well in advance

Attempt the TMA as soon as possible, and work on it as you go along, straight after completing the relevant unit.

Make sure to keep in mind when your assessments are due in, you don't want to have to rush anything.

Plan your time and keep disciplined! Once you fall behind, it's tough to get back on track, so don't let it happen.

Make a plan and keep it realistic

Read the question, answer the question, then read the question again! – but don't over-think it.

Know that the time you spend on learning will pay off and don't give up.

Do what it says on the tin and you can't go far wrong

Picking up your marked TMA...

Download the pack [*that is, your marked script plus the summary sheet*] from the website to save alongside the submission.

Print them so easier to refer to. Use for revision.

keep all feedback downloaded to use later, keep it stored

... reading and making use of the feedback...

Read the feedback initially then go back the next day once emotions surrounding marks have subsided. Read, and review, then revisit the comments a few days later

Read through the comments thoroughly and talk to a friend or family member about any mistakes you have made (or things you are particularly proud of), and how you can improve. This helps to keep the feedback in your head, so you have it at hand when tackling the next TMA.

Look at the feedback as soon as possible so that you can keep on top of any errors/feedback for completing the next TMA and improving your marks.

even if you score highly there is value in reviewing the feedback as tutors will also comment on things such as the style and formatting of the document which can be useful when setting out future assignments.

Focus on applying the feedback given rather than focusing on your assessment score

Take any general advice on board. It can provide easy extra marks throughout the rest of your studies if you fix general issues on how you show your working or answer written questions.

Make use of it. You might be annoyed at first to have dropped marks, but turn it into a positive and learn from your mistakes

Take your time to consider the feedback - then redo that part using the feedback provided

Take notes of your feedback to refer back to

go back to it as many times as needed

read the feedback numerous times to take it in properly to be able to use it effectively in future TMA's because it is a brilliant resource to support you to improve

have the feedback handy for the next attempt at an TMA.

...maybe feeling a bit upset by the comments...

Don't take it personally, use it as fuel for doing even better in your next assignment.

It's for your own good. If you don't know where you are going wrong, how do you expect to improve?

accept it constructively, it is really helpful

Don't get too hung up on it

Try not to get too upset if your mark isn't as high as you'd hope or wanted

[remember] that it is given to encourage and help them

Making a mistake and receiving feedback for the mistake is an efficient way for an improvement. So, appreciate it rather than being disappointed

Take your time to process the feedback, don't allow your emotions to cloud your judgement.

And if you don't understand something your tutor has written...

don't be afraid to ask your tutor for clarification, especially if you think they're wrong! (you may need help realising you've gotten the wrong idea about something)

Don't be shy to ask for help from your tutor

Make the most of having an assigned tutor

If you want really clear feedback, you should ask clear questions to your tutor yourself.

Finally...

re-read the feedback from previous TMAs before submitting the next to ensure that you have learned from past mistakes and the feedback was not given in vain

And above all, remember...

TMAs are about much more than marking!