

M150 Introductory Notes

Introduction

The idea of this is to give you an idea of what a typical Open University tutorial would be like, in this case the introductory tutorial for M150.

My website

I have setup a website for my group and will be updating it with tutorials contents. On it there are links to all the M150 websites and other useful OU information related to M150. The URL is at :

<http://www.users.totalise.co.uk/~rifat>

Group discussion

What are you looking forward to about studying an OU Computing course? Do you have any worries about studying? What is your ultimate goal? What do you hope to get out of the tutorials?

Study Skills

M150 is a Level 1 course (it starts with a '1') so is equivalent to a first year at a conventional university. As such it doesn't aim to improve your study skills, which may be lacking if you haven't studied for some time:

- Important to practise “active reading”, not like reading a novel. Do this by forming specific questions in your mind about what you like to get out of reading the material before you start reading it. This will motivate your mind to take in the information actively
- Most courses have review and revision questions – do them
- After each sub-section go back over it and jot down or highlight the main points – I prefer to underline with a pencil and a ruler
- Construct a mind map summarising what you read. This will force your mind to test how much knowledge you gained
- Any more help in this area, contact your tutor or Regional Centre

Study Calendar

All courses have a Study Calendar to help you keep on track. Don't worry if you fall a week or so behind, but important to catch up as soon as possible – talk to me or the regional centre.

Time

A 30 point course like M150 will require about 8 hours study time per week. This is a major commitment; but if you are determined, it will be worthwhile.

eTMA

Make sure you familiarise yourself with the eTMA system and do the tutorial using dummy eTMA, this will ensure that you submit your TMA smoothly.