The best way to handle, or: How to survive Oral Exams!

by Henrik Juel

After handing in your report:

Get drunk? Take a journey? Go dating? Relax? Do sport? Study hard? Study for fun?

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When to begin preparing?
What to say? – 5 minutes each!
Clear points – and a structure
(to be expanded below)
Individual/group preparations?
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Nervous? What for breakfast? What exercises? How to dress and behave – does it matter? On time – and delay? (At first the examiner and censor (co-examiner) meet?)

Procedure:

The examiner calls you in and tells you where to sit (or stand, if you prefer) Shake hands with the censor (co-examiner) Nametags, place your notes/handouts/laptop (usually there will be water and cups in the room, but it is fine to bring your own. What about cake?) The role of the examiner and the role of the censor? The examiner is the "host" and should shortly explain the overall procedure, roles and timeslot, before giving you the word for your presentations (more below) You can demand "private" grades.

Time available (Communication Studies standard):

2 students: 60 minutes

3 students: 75 minutes

4 students: 90 minutes

5 students. 105 minutes

Standard Program:

First: 4-5 minutes presentations by each student.

Next: questions and general discussion

When 15-20 minutes left: you leave, evaluation

At last: you come in again, get your grade(s) and a

short feed-back

Topoi – places to go when you prepare your oral presentation

| Report sections: Oral points: | Problem definition Research questions Basic Concepts Delimitation | Other research Literature Theories (of science/ field) Case description Presuppositions | Designing and conducting empirical research Data collection Interviews | Impressions Observations Conceptualizing Analysis Interpretation Evaluation | Conclusion Perspectives Research experience/ Process/partners New questions |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Correct Clarify Deepen | | | | | |
| Expand Supplement Alternative | | | | | |

Rules and smart behavior:

Public? Recording?

Group and individual - collaborate, or what?

The grade and feed-back: individual or group?

The report, how important is that? The oral part? Your individual contribution? What does the final grade express?

Be positive and engaged in the academic subjects! The exam as grading – and/or the exam as learning? The million dollar last question? Formalities: Check on kursus.ruc.dk about the requirements (learning objectives and so on) for the exams.

You can submit a complaint (within 2 weeks after the grading) about the following:

Legal issues

The basis for examination (questions, assignments, etc.)

The examination process

The assessment

https://intra.ruc.dk/nc/en/students/student-hub/student-hub/ruc-studie-og-karrierevejledning/klager/examination-complaint/