

Practical 1: NUMBAS for Computer Based Assessments

The aim of this practical session is to introduce you to the **NUMBAS** system – the software we use for the **Computer Based Assessments** (CBAs) that you will take every few weeks throughout this course. Please read this handout carefully and work through the five steps listed below.

Accessing NUMBAS for CBAs

Numbas is accessible through Blackboard on any computer, either on or off campus, as follows:

1.
 - Login to Blackboard at: bb.nc1.ac.uk using your university Username and Password.
 - Click on the module code MAS1403 under Course List to go to the MAS1403 Blackboard page.
IF YOU CANNOT ACCESS THIS PAGE THEN PLEASE MAKE SURE WE KNOW!
2. Click on Numbas Practice Material in the sidebar.
3. Click on the Getting Started item to begin.
 - This loads up the MAS1403: Getting Started CBA which has examples on inputting into the system and examples relating to material from MAS1403.
 - There are 6 questions with 28 marks available. This practical is **not assessed**; it is simply to give you practice for the real CBAs.
 - Click on the Start button and work through the questions. To reveal the full answer to any question (and get some advice on how to answer it) click on the Reveal answers button at the **bottom of the screen**.
 - Note that in the real CBAs you can pause the CBA at any time by clicking on the Pause button on the left-hand side of the screen. You then resume the CBA by clicking on Resume.
4. When you have finished answering all the questions and are happy with how to use the system, click on End Assignment to get your score, a breakdown of your marks, and other useful information. (You may be asked to verify that you want to exit — if so, just click on Ok.)

On this summary screen, you can get feedback on your answers by clicking on a question number.

5. To exit the system, click on Exit Assignment at the bottom of the screen.

IMPORTANT INFO:

Practice sessions

You will be given a practice session for each CBA — you can do this as many times as you like and you can see the solutions at any time. Practice mode usually starts two weeks before the deadline for the assessed CBA and is available all year.

Exam mode

This is followed by the assessed CBA (“Exam mode”) — you can do this **only once** and is usually available for 7 days. Note that questions are randomised so it is unlikely that you will see the same questions in exam mode as you saw in practice mode. Exam mode is accessed from the Assignments link on the sidebar on the MAS1403 Blackboard page.