Grades on the First Exam.

Fifty-five people took the exam of the 57 enrolled. The high was 89 and the low was 12. The average was 57; the median (half the scores above, half below) was 59. Grades on a scale of 0–100 are shown in the table; they do vary slightly from exam to exam. I also indicate the percent of the class that received each letter grade. Unfortunately this is not an unusual grade distribution for Math 122, although I would prefer to see around 60% get a C or better rather than 43.6%.

Grade	Range	Number	Percent of class
A	85–100	4	7.2%
B+	80–84	7	
B	75–79	4	20.0%
C+	70–74	5	
C	65–69	4	16.4%
D	55–64	7	12.7%
F	0–54	24	43.6%

Note that it is your numerical grade that counts, so at this point there is little real difference between a 63 and a 66, for example. I would also say that scores above 40, and especially above 50 can be salvaged: with good work from now on and the final used as a replacement grade, these can be buried. But if have scored below 40, I think you really need to consider how you are going to turn things around in this course, and if you really have the drive to do it. Too many students think they can do math by watching it passively, and not practicing it regularly ("doing the homework"); this works no better for math than it does for skateboarding, and the results are similar if you have to do it under pressure. Some think they can do it without even coming to class, or by coming to class, but not having read or tried any problems, and so not having questions to ask. Answers to questions that are not YOUR questions have little impact on learning. Even using the calculator efficiently takes practice. If you did poorly ask yourself these questions.

1. How many classes have you missed? It is possible that you might miss a quiz, which would mean missing some valuable practice for the exam, not to mention that I believe there is instruction going on in class every day.

2. When reading assignments are made do you do them? Do you start on problems before class or do you wait until someone shows you how to do them?

3. How much of the homework have you seriously attempted? When you have not understood how to do a problem what have you done about it?

4. In class, do you participate fully? Do you review the notes and complete the partially worked problems after class?

5. Have you sought help from the instructor outside of class?

6. Do you have a study partner or group that meets regularly?

7. Do you study the quizzes and their solutions until you can get them perfect? For your information, here is how the exam questions lined up with the quizzes and homework: 1–Qz1, 2–Qz3, 3–Qz2, 4–Qz1, 5–Qz3, 6–Qz2, 7–Qz2, class notes, text p. 26, Example 7, p. 28 budget constraint, p. 30, #17, 18.

8. Have you practiced using your calculator?

9. How many hours do you spend on the course each week, outside of class? (Six hours absolute minimum is expected; I'd be surprised if you can do well with less than eight to ten.)