Feedback on class test

First some general points

1. Try to make sure that you follow the instructions:
   a. It makes it easier for the marker
   b. ... and that reduces the chances of mistakes
   c. It means that you answer the questions asked
2. Be prepared!
3. Lay things out clearly – again, it makes it easier for the marker to read what you have done.
4. Make sure that you have read the question
5. Answer the question:
   a. If you haven’t answered the question asked then it is hard to give you marks
   b. If you haven’t fully answered the question, then you are throwing marks away
6. Remember, the query should focus on the specification in the question. So, it should be
generic rather than just work, by chance, for the example data set.

Question by question

   a. Give both ISBN & title
   b. Check the year!
   c. Remember the ordering!
2. Find the name and address of all borrowers who have ‘London’ in their address (5%).
   a. Read the question!
   b. .... and answer it!
3. Find the name and email of everyone who has reserved a book. If they have made more
   than one reservation, their name should only appear once. Order your table by name. (10%).
   a. Remember the ordering
   b. DISTINCT!
4. Find the name of all authors who have written a book with Gary Cornell. Order the result by
   name (10%).
   a. Gary Cornell doesn’t count as writing a book with himself
   b. Only list authors once
   c. Remember the ordering!
5. How many borrowers have borrowed books? Label your result as ‘Registered Borrowers who
   have Borrowed’ (10%)
   a. Read the question and answer it
      i. Remember the AS
   b. This is not the same as the number of loans!
6. Find the ISBN of all books that have been borrowed more than once. (15%).
   a. The obvious solution is to use group by and having
   b. You cannot put the test in the WHERE
7. Find the name of all borrowers who borrowed a book (started a loan) in 2007 and who have
   not returned the book. List the names in reverse alphabetical order. (10%).
   a. Remember the ordering
   b. Make sure you include all the conditions
   c. Remember to only include people once
8. Find the name and debt of the borrowers who have incurred the largest debt. (15%).
   a. Read the question carefully
   b. Answer the question asked!
9. Find the number of borrowers who did NOT take out a book in 2008 (20%)
   a. Again, read and answer the question!
   i. E.g. the set of people who did not borrow a book in 2008 is NOT the same as
      the set of people who borrowed a book in years other than 2008!

There will be some similar questions in the examination. Here, you could look up the syntax and commands (and even so, there were a lot of errors). In the exam you won’t have this luxury.

So, make sure you are well prepared. Think about the questions before you answer them!