Mid-term grades: time for appraisal

Mid-term grades for freshmen are now available at the faculty advisors' offices. These have a definite value as the first overall indication of a student's standing at the Institute; but a thoughtful student will recognize the limits to their meaning.

Mid-term grades give a hint at weak points in certain courses; they also point out general trends in ability and interest, covering far more than courses so far. But they are not infallible and absolute. A person need not despair if he did not do as well as he had hoped, provided he is sure on the implications of a mid-term grade.

There is no question about the division between final grades (which are on a student's record) and mid-term grades (which are not). The semester system planned major—say, physics—of a low mid-term in that subject. Most important, there is no need to feel overwhelmed in classes, or simply to give up, because of a poor mid-term grade.

During the first year at MIT, the differences in background of the students are not as great as many freshmen think. Not too much unfamiliarity will show all it can; it remains to the student to confer with his advisor and his teachers, they will understand his point of view and he can work to his best.

This year the freshman advisory program is even more carefully organized than before to help students with problems of adjustment. By spending more time thus far it can; it remains to the student to confer with his advisor and his teachers, they will understand his point of view and he can work to his best.

The two groups...