

Analyzing Past Tests

You can help yourself strengthen your performance on tests by analyzing your strengths and weaknesses as a test-taker. Using the form in this packet, follow the directions below. This process should help you determine how you can improve the way you prepare for and take tests.

Directions

- Complete the top portion of the form on the back of this page. Be as specific as possible in describing the way you studied (or didn't study).
- Under "Questions missed", Write in the number of the actual test questions that were incorrect on your test. If you missed questions 5, 8, 13, and 29, those are the numbers you should write in that column.
- Now, go across the rows of the chart. For example, if you got #5 wrong, determine:
 - How many points were taken off?
 - What kind of question or problem was it?
 - What do you think was the reason you got it wrong?
- Look for patterns. Ask yourself:
 - What kinds of questions did I have the most difficulty with?
 - Which questions were worth the most points?
 - What can I do to improve on my next test?
 - How can I make sure I get more of the high-value questions right next time?
- Ask yourself what you still don't understand about the test or test question(s) that you answered incorrectly.
 - Did you have difficulty understanding the instructor's comments?
 - Write down any questions you need to ask your instructor.
 - If you have questions for the professor or want to clarify how you can improve on your next test, make an appointment to discuss these issues (don't mob the prof at the end of class).
- Make a list of the things you need to do to be more successful in your next test. Ask questions such as:
 - How can I make sure I understand the material?
 - Do I need to manage my time better so I can spend more time preparing?
 - How can I figure out what is important to study?
 - How can I self-test before the real test to see how well I know it?
 - What strategies should I use while taking the test?
- Look at tests from other courses and see if there is a pattern. What can you learn from your successes and failures?
- If you see that you have difficulty with a particular kind of test question, such as essay questions, or you want to learn more about test taking strategies, enroll in a study skills course or seek assistance from University Health Services or your Success Coach.

Post-Test Analysis Form

Course _____ Date of exam _____

Predicted grade _____ Actual grade _____ % of total grade _____

Relevant details of the study process (# of days/time spent studying, special methods used, study environment, tutoring, meeting with instructor, SI attended, etc.)

Question Profile			Reason the Answer was Incorrect				
Question Missed	Points Lost	*Type of Question	Carelessness	Material Unfamiliar	Misinterpreted	Not Complete	Other

- *MC = Multiple Choice
- T/F = True/False
- Com = Completion
- Ma = Matching
- Ess = Essay
- Cal = Calculation
- For = Formula
- Der = Derivation
- WP = Word Problem