

Study Skills

Using Exam Results

After taking a test, you're not done with that information. Even if your course doesn't have a cumulative final, you can still use your tests for more than just knowing your grade. Here's how:

What is your instructor saying about the test while handing it back/discussing it?	
Point(s) or topic(s) everyone had trouble with.	
How did the class do as a whole?	
Were there particular types of questions everyone struggled with? Which ones and why?	

****Do not throw your test away - it'll be useful for cumulative finals/midterms and in your prep for the next exam****

Evaluate your test results:	
Types of questions you got wrong:	
Kinds of mistakes you made:	
Is there a pattern:	
Types of questions you got right:	
What were your strengths?	
What can you learn from the instructor's comments?	



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Evaluate your preparation for the test:

Exam strategies used:	
Were you prepared?	
Topics you missed:	
Surprises:	
Did you read the whole test before starting?	
Did you give yourself time limits for each section? Did it work?	

Correcting Your Mistakes/Wrong Answers

Literally correct the answers you got wrong – when you answered incorrectly, you made a link in your memory to the wrong information. You need to change that.

Multiple-choice	Write out the question but add the correct answer to the question so that you are left with a statement that is correct.
True-or-false	Write the full statement if it is a true statement. If it was a false statement, write it out to make it a true statement.
Math & Science w/ calculations	Redo the entire solution with the calculations written fully and correctly.
Essay	Create a new outline for the correct response and include any ideas that were triggered by your instructor's comments.

****Read them outloud when you're done and then incorporate them into your notes.****

Integrating Your Results for Future Use

- 1) Review correct and incorrect questions – did your professor give hints that those topics would be on the test (repeating it, emphasizing it, thorough explanations)? Watch for that in the future.
- 2) For cumulative midterms/finals – the corrected exams and quizzes will help you make your own study guide when the time comes – keep them.
- 3) For non cumulative midterms/finals – your answers/observations from #1 will help you study and prepare for future assessments.
- 4) Annotate your notes based on the test results – emphasis, incomplete areas, etc.
- 5) Fill in gaps in your notes based on topics you missed or performed below expectations on.