








# Post Test Review

*Part of learning to be a better student is learning from your mistakes. Reviewing returned tests helps you identify areas of strength and weakness, see patterns in your answers, and learn how to improve on future tests. If your professor does not return tests, make an appointment to discuss your performance in person during office hours.*

**Directions:** Ask yourself the following questions as you look through a returned test:

-  Which questions did I get correct?
-  Which questions did I get wrong or lose points?
-  Did I make careless mistakes?
  - Misread directions?
  - Forget to check my answer carefully?
  - Overthink the question?
  - Miss a key word in the question or answer choice?
  - Forgot simple steps/rules?
  - Fail to show my work or forget to label my answer?
-  Did I prepare enough for this exam? Did I...
  - Study the wrong material?
  - Not leave adequate time to prepare for the test?
  - Not understand concepts well enough to answer "application" questions?
  - Not support my answers with enough detail?
  - Get confused by similar terms?
  - Use incorrect procedures?
-  Was it the test itself (format, wording, test-taking techniques)? Did I...
  - Run out of time to finish test?
  - Forget everything?
  - Guess on questions I did not know?
  - Change answers at last minute?
  - Have a difficult time with multiple-choice questions? True/False? Essay questions? Short answer?
-  Is there a pattern to the types of questions I got wrong?
-  Where did the material on the test come from? (notes, text, homework, a combination)

After reviewing your returned exam, take a minute to reflect on some good strategies for preparing for an exam. Check off any methods that you used and circle any methods that you would like to try next time:

- Reviewed thoroughly - studying for understanding rather than memorization
- Applied information to new scenarios and examples
- Came up with creative ways to remember (memory techniques, association, drawing, making up rhymes etc.)
- Studied at a time and in a place where I could focus
- Blocked out my studying into manageable parts and did not cram
- Finished studying 2-3 days before the exam so I could review and perfect my knowledge
- Made sure I fully understood the material by self-testing
- Thought about and wrote the answers to my study questions in my own words
- Tried to predict what the professor would ask while studying
- Practiced problems or practiced answering review questions
- Studied in multiple ways (writing, reading, creating, saying, doing, teaching it to someone else)
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What did I discover about how I prepared for and took my exam that will help me improve on my next exam?

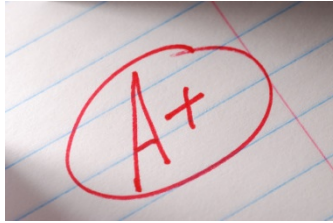
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## A Dozen Reasons to Review a Returned Test



- 1.) Check the point totals and look for mistakes in grading. You may find missing points!
- 2.) See what questions you missed and why you missed them. It is important to learn from your mistakes to avoid making them again on future tests!
- 3.) Learn from your professor's comments. These give helpful feedback on what was incorrect or missing from the answer and help you figure out what your professor expects from a strong answer. If the comments don't make sense or are difficult to read, ask your professor for an explanation.
- 4.) Notice the types of questions or style of exam your professor uses so you can be ready for the next exam! Pay particular attention to tricky questions that caught you off guard.
- 5.) Identify where the material came from i.e. lecture? homework? reading assignments? This will help you know what to concentrate on when studying for the next test.
- 6.) Correct any wrong answers, complete problems correctly, or rewrite answers to ensure that you learn the material the right way and do not restudy incorrect responses.
- 7.) The material may appear on a later test or on the final if the class is cumulative.
- 8.) Analyze the type of problems you missed so you can review strategies for that specific type of questions.
- 9.) Review to get an idea what kind of test the instructor might give next time.
- 10.) Reviewing the material from past exams will help move the information to your long-term memory for better retrieval next time you study!
- 11.) Reflect on how you studied for the exam. Did you give yourself enough time? Review the right material? Find ways to study more effectively next time.
- 12.) Use it as an excuse to get to know your professor. Talking to your professor after a test shows that you want to improve. Go with specific questions or topics to cover.