

# Anticipate Test Content

**Review any study guides** that the instructor hands out in class.

**Ask the instructor what to anticipate on the test** if he/she does not provide that information.

**Pay attention** to both the main ideas and the details that the instructor brings up during lectures, and connect concepts.

**Generate a list of possible questions** you would ask if you were making the exam, and then answer the questions.

**Speak with other students and peer tutors** to predict what will be on the test and to master course material.

**Form a study group, attend peer tutoring, and/or meet with a professor to master course material.**

**Attend help/review sessions before the test.**

**Pay particular attention to clues** that indicate an instructor might test for a particular idea, such as when an instructor:

- says something more than once
- writes material on the board
- pauses to review notes
- asks questions of the class
- says “this will be on the test!”

**Review your previous tests** graded by the instructor and pay attention to questions that were answered incorrectly to develop a plan for next time.

# **Review Your Exam: Analyze Test Content**

One of the most important steps to effective test taking is reviewing your graded exam after it is returned by the professor.

**One purpose of reviewing your exam is to analyze the test content to effectively prepare for the next exam.**

- **Determine the source of the test questions** – questions could come from study guides, lectures, textbooks, homework, review sessions, etc.
- **Note any changes to test questions** – think about the similarities and differences between the test questions and the questions in lectures, textbooks, or problem sets.
- **Think about the content of the test** – questions could concern details, facts, formulas, main points, concepts, problem sets, or application of course concepts. Sometimes, a student will perform well on one part of a test and poorly on another.

**Now analyze the content of a recent exam:**

Course \_\_\_\_\_ Exam Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. How prepared were you for the test questions? How did you decide what to study?
2. What were the similarities and the differences between the test questions and the questions in lectures, text books or problem sets?
3. Did most of the test questions concern details, facts, main points, concepts, problem sets, or applications of course concepts? Were there any discrepancies in your performance in these different areas?