

Exam Wrappers

Exam Wrappers are a metacognitive analysis for reviewing your exam setting the stage for increased performance for the next exam. All too often, when we receive a graded exam, we focus on a single feature e.g., the score earned. While this focus on a grade is understandable, it can lead us to miss out on several learning opportunities that such an assessment can provide:

- identifying areas of strength and weakness which can guide future studies
- reflection on the adequacy of preparation time and the appropriateness of study strategies
- identify types errors and recurring patterns that can be addressed.

The following are some questions to consider when reviewing a returned exam.

1. Which part of the exam was easiest for you and why?
2. Which part of the exam was the most difficult and why?
3. Which of the following activities did you complete prior to the exam?
 - a. All required reading assignments.
 - b. Preparation and review of reading notes
 - c. Review of lecture notes
 - d. Condensing reading and lecture notes into study guides (e.g. concept maps, charts, diagrams etc.)
 - e. Self-testing of material to be covered by exam
 - f. Prediction of possible test questions
 - g. Study with friends
 - h. Other
4. Which of the above did you find most helpful in preparing for the exam?
5. How much time (in hours) did you spend preparing for the exam? On how many different days did you study?
6. Did you feel prepared when you walked into the exam? Why or Why not?
7. As you look over the returned exam, analyze where/how you lost points. Fill in the blanks below with the number of points you lost due to each of the following:
 - a. Trouble applying definitions _____
 - b. Trouble remembering structures _____
 - c. Lack of understanding of the concepts _____
 - d. Unclear expectations _____
 - e. Not knowing how to approach the problem _____
 - f. Careless mistakes _____
 - g. Other (Specify): _____

8. Which questions did you miss/lose points on? Did you notice any patterns that you were able to identify? The following questions can help you identify the types of mistakes you are making.

- **Insufficient Information**
 - The information was not in my notes.
 - I studied the information but could not remember it.
 - I knew the information but not the details.
 - I knew the information but could not apply it.
 - I studied the wrong information.
 - I did not read text thoroughly.
- **Test Anxiety**
 - I spent too much time daydreaming.
 - I was so tired I could not concentrate.
 - I panicked.
 - I experienced mental block.
- **Lack of Test Wisdom**
 - I did not eliminate grammatically correct choices.
 - I did not make the best choice.
 - I did not notice limiting words.
 - I did not notice a double negative.
 - I carelessly marked a wrong choice.
- **Test Skills**
 - I misread the directions.
 - I made poor use of the time provided.
 - I wrote poorly organized responses.
 - I wrote incomplete responses.
 - I changed a correct answer to a wrong one.

9. Based on your responses to the questions above, name at least three things you will do differently in preparing for the next exam. For instance, will you spend more time, change a specific study habit or try a new one (if so, name it), try to sharpen some other skill (if so, name it).