

POST-EXAM REFLECTION

Now that your graded exam has been returned, you may want to think about what you can do to improve your understanding of the material. Here are some questions to help you consider factors that may have affected your performance on the last exam, and assist you in being more mindful and better prepared for the next exam.

The Weeks Prior to the Exam

1. Did you attend all class meetings? (If not, how many how many classes did you miss, arrive late, or leave early?)
2. Did you take comprehensive notes during lectures?
3. Did you do all the weekly reading and complete it before the material was covered in lecture? Did you take your own notes while reading?
4. Did you do all of the homework problems that were assigned and turn them in on time?
5. When you got your homework back, did you go over it to find out which problems you lost points on, review those concepts to clear up misconceptions, and then make sure to do the problems correctly?
6. Did you ask questions in lecture when you didn't understand something?
7. Did you go to the professor's office hours to ask questions? Did you go to the math tutoring services on campus?
8. How often do you not start work for the class until the night before it is due? (e.g., homework, reading assignments, studying for the exam)

Studying for the Exam

1. How many hours did you study for the exam? What percent was spent studying with others, and what percent was spent studying alone?
2. When studying, what percent of your time did you spend on each of the following
 - reading the textbook and reviewing examples from the reading
 - reviewing notes you took while doing the reading assignments
 - reviewing notes from lecture and examples done in class
 - reworking homework problems, while paying extra attention to those on which you lost points
 - working additional problems from the text that were not assigned
 - working with others in the class, attending math tutoring services on campus, or attending the professor's office hours to ask questions
 - becoming comfortable with the material (e.g., rewriting key concepts into your own words, creating personal examples or analogies, self-testing, memorizing definitions or vocabulary)

Going Over the Exam After it is Returned

1. What questions and concepts on the exam did you lose the most points on? Take a look at the problems on which you missed points. How many points were lost due to each of the following:
 - not understanding a concept
 - being careless (e.g., not reading directions, not responding to the question completely, making arithmetic or basic algebra errors)
 - not expressing yourself carefully (e.g., writing illegibly, not using proper grammar, not communicating effectively)
 - not knowing how to start or formulate an approach to the problem
 - not pacing yourself during the exam, running out of time
 - others?
2. Go through the problems on which you lost points and make a list of all concepts with which you had difficulty. Review and study these concepts carefully over the next week in order to learn them more deeply. Work additional problems involving these concepts and check your answers.

Expectations

1. When going in to the exam, did you feel as though you understood the concepts that would be tested? What happened? Was your level of understanding insufficient to do problems involving those concepts? Was it something else?
2. Prior to taking the exam, what score (out of 100) did you expect to earn?
3. After completing the exam and turning it in, what score (out of 100) did you expect to earn?
4. Now that the exam has been returned, how does the actual score you earned compare with your expectations above?

Moving Forward

1. What could you have done differently to prepare for the exam?
2. Based on the questions above, what will you do differently as you attend class, do reading assignments, do homework, and study for the next exam?
3. Do you need to spend more time studying on the days right before the exam? Do you need to spend more time keeping up with reading, class, and homework as the class is progressing?
4. Will you take new approaches to how you study and learn the material? Will you do something new that you didn't do before? Will you spend more time on the things you are already doing?