

TEST ANALYSIS

Before you crumple that old exam up or lose it in the recesses of your binder, look over it thoroughly and deliberately. While it might be painful to analyze your mistakes, those same mistakes can clue you into your test-weaknesses so that you can work on eliminating them.

After your instructor hands back your exam look over it carefully and classify your mistakes into the following categories by tallying them in the right hand column below (Quantity of Error). This activity may require you to attend your instructor’s office hours so you may look at the original exam and compare it to your answer sheet or Scantron. Prepare to make an appointment with your instructor, if necessary. Remember to be thorough and honest in your efforts: you’re trying to improve future exam scores!

TYPE OF ERROR	QUANTITY OF ERROR
<p>Mistake(s) from misreading, misunderstanding, or over-thinking the question. You may have found yourself reading the question several times in a row and trying to figure out the “perspective” of the question. Or perhaps several—if not all—of the answers looked correct so you “over-thought” it to try to figure it out. Or maybe you just mixed up a few words and you realize now what it was asking for.</p>	
<p>Mistake(s) from information that was in a lecture (and you missed it). Whether you had to miss class or were just preoccupied during lecture, this is information that you missed from lecture that showed up on an exam.</p>	
<p>Mistake(s) from information that was in your textbook (and you missed it). This is information that was in your textbook (maybe exclusively) and you either skimmed that chapter a little too quickly, skipped the chapter entirely, or just didn’t understand the information as well as you thought.</p>	
<p>Mistake(s) from information that was in a graphic or caption (in your text or other handout). You may have had a question on the exam that showed you a picture, chart, or graph and expected you to be able to describe, analyze, or know parts of the picture and you may not have recognized it.</p>	
<p>Mistake(s) you made in “logic” or reasoning that led you to the wrong answer. You may have thought you understood the question at the time but realize (now that you’ve looked at it again) that you took the wrong reasoning to the answer. It could be you used the wrong formula (like in math), that you applied the wrong logic, or that you simply confused one idea with another.</p>	
<p>Mistake(s) because you just couldn’t remember this information. This is the easy choice so try to see if your mistake(s) fit(s) in one of the categories above first. It does happen, however, that you just had a problem remembering an idea, memorizing a fact, or some other memory problem.</p>	
<p>Mistake(s) in your test taking strategy, including:</p>	
a. You changed the right answer to the wrong answer.	
b. You marked the wrong answer on the answer sheet or Scantron.	
c. You became nervous/anxious during the exam and missed several questions in a row.	
d. You ran out of time to complete the exam and had unfinished questions.	
e. You read the directions wrong.	
f. You missed part of the exam entirely (forgot to complete a section, or didn’t see a page).	
g. Others? Explain: _____	