

# Exams as a Tool

## ***Reaction Questions:***

- What is the first thing you do when you get back an exam, quiz, or homework?
- After first getting back your exam, quiz, or homework, should you ever look at it again?
  - Do you ever look at these assessments again? If so, when?

## **Getting Back Exams and Quizzes**

Next time you get back your exam or quiz, reflect on the follow strategies to self-assess your effort and better prepare for future assessments (quizzes and exams).

### *1) Review the test structure*

- a. Number of questions and sub-questions (i.e. parts a-g on one question)
- b. Time allotted to complete
- c. Type of questions – T/F; multiple choice; essay; short answer; case study
- d. Allotment of points given to each section
- e. How much content was covered (i.e. 25% was from chapter 1, 50% was from chapter 2, etc.)

### *2) Compare your study tools to the test*

- a. Reflect on what you studied versus what was assessed
- b. Compare study strategies to those needed for the test
  - i. Example: studying the definition of a term won't help you apply it; need to study problems that apply the term in future studying.

### *3) Reflect*

- a. Compare your effort in learning the material and studying for the exam/quiz to the grade you earned – how does it compare?
- b. Set new study goals to earn the grade you want



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## Using Past Exams, Quizzes, and Homework

Here's some ways to use your previous assessments to best help you prepare for future assessments.

- 1) *Take it to office hours*
  - a. Talking through missed problems and the test as a whole with the instructor and/or a TA could provide additional clarification and help with content.
  - b. Office hours are listed in your syllabus.
    - i. Note: It is *not* recommended to email instructors to ask for extra credit or about a "curve". Additionally, questions about missed questions should be asked in person during office hours.
- 2) *Take it to help sessions*
  - a. Use [studyhub.tamu.edu](https://studyhub.tamu.edu) to find out when there is free tutoring, help sessions, peer teacher office hours, or an SI for your class.
  - b. Take your past exams, quizzes, or homework to work through missed or confusing problems during this help session.
- 3) *Create mock exams*
  - a. Use knowledge of question types to create a mock exam
    - i. You can do this by yourself while studying, or with a study group

## Things to Consider

- Why might it be important to self-assess your understanding of the material and compare it to a grade you received?
- If you do not get your quiz or exam back before the next one, what would be the best strategy to prepare?
- If you create and complete a mock exam, who can check your answers? List all options.



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