

Cognitive Wrapper and Exam Analysis

Instructions:

This worksheet provides a structured opportunity to **evaluate your study strategies** and **identify patterns** in your exam responses. Completing it will help you identify which content you have already mastered and which areas you should focus on next. This allows you to create a targeted study plan that makes the best use of your time. Remember, learning is a process, and it may take several cycles of reflection to see the results in your grades!

** We encourage you to respond as honestly as possible to these prompts. Getting a true picture of how you are studying will help you recognize what is and is not working for you.*

Q1. How would you describe your preparation for the exam? Select all that apply.

- I did most of my studying in the day or two before the exam.
- I did most of my studying several days (at least 3-4 days) before the exam.
- Most of my study sessions were 30-60 minutes long.
- Most of my study sessions were an hour or longer.
- Most of my study sessions were on my own.
- Most of my study sessions were in a group with other students.
- Other:**

Q2. Which of the following strategies did you use to prepare? Select all that apply.

- Attended Supplemental Instruction (SI), Tutoring, departmental help lab, or a review session
- Created concept maps, flow-charts or other visual representation of key ideas
- Created my own study guide and practice questions
- Explained or taught key concepts to someone else
- Generated my own examples and connected new information to something I already knew
- Prepared a reference sheet to bring to the exam (if permitted)
- Reviewed and highlighted my class notes
- Rewrote my notes without looking at them
- Searched external sources (videos, Youtube, etc) for additional explanations
- Summarized key topics in my own words
- Took practice exams or solved practice problems
- Tested/quizzed myself on material with flashcards/Quizlet
- Visited instructor and/or TA office hours
- Other:**
- Other:**

Q3. Describe 2 things you feel you did well in preparing for this exam and share why & how you believe they contributed to your success.

1.

2.

Q4. Review the questions you answered correctly and/or sections on which you received positive feedback. What patterns do you observe?

Q5. Review the questions or sections where you missed points and/or received critical feedback. How many points did you miss in each category – no points, a few points, or many points?

Common errors BEFORE the exam (preparation)		NONE	A FEW	MANY
Application	You understand the underlying concept(s) but could not apply it to the question on the exam.			
Concept	You do not understand the underlying principles or concepts required to answer the question or solve the problem.			
Study/Prep	You studied the wrong material, used ineffective study strategies, or did not spend enough time preparing.			
Common errors DURING the exam		NONE	A FEW	MANY
Inattentive	Misunderstandings or minor errors that could have been caught before you turned in the exam.			
Directions	You did not read or understand the directions.			
Test-taking <i>Could include the following:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You spent too much time on earlier questions and did not have enough time to finish the entire exam. You rushed through easier questions, resulting in mistakes that could have been caught with more attention. You changed answers from correct to incorrect ones. 			

Q6. Review the tips for each category of errors on the next page. Based on your responses and these suggestions, identify at least 3 strategies you plan to use to prepare in the future.

The more specific you can be about where and when you will try these strategies, the more likely it is that you will follow through with your plan.

WHEN?

WHERE?

1.

2.

3.

Tips to Minimize Common Errors

Common errors BEFORE the exam (preparation)		Tips & Suggestions
Application	You understand the underlying concept(s) but could not apply it to the question on the exam.	Work on identifying the different types of questions or problems you will need to solve. Use quizzes, examples from class, and study guides or review sheets to practice. Answer questions without looking at your notes to confirm your understanding.
Concept	You do not understand the underlying principles or concepts required to answer the question or solve the problem.	Go back to your notes or textbook to review the concepts you missed. To avoid this issue in the future, work on improving your overall understanding – try testing yourself and explaining the material to others. Take advantage of office hours to seek clarifications before the next exam.
Study/Preparation	You studied the wrong material, used ineffective study strategies, or did not spend enough time preparing.	Think about how you can use your study time most effectively. Do you need to spend more time preparing or start studying earlier? How can you space out your study sessions? Would you benefit from finding a study partner or group? If you don't think your current strategies are working for you, ask your peers, instructors, and mentors for ideas.
Common errors DURING the exam		Tips & Suggestions
Inattentive	Misunderstandings or minor errors that could have been caught.	Work carefully and systematically check for mistakes along the way. Leave yourself enough time to review each question before submitting.
Direction	You did not read or understand the directions.	Read all the directions and underline key words. Cover up everything but the one question you're working on to eliminate distractions.
Test-taking	<p>You spent too much time on earlier questions and did not have enough time to finish the entire exam.</p> <p>You rushed through easier questions, resulting in mistakes that could have been caught with more attention.</p> <p>You changed answers from correct to incorrect ones.</p>	<p>Suggestions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set yourself a time limit for each question and move on when time is up. • When you are done, review the easy questions first and check carefully for inattentive mistakes. • Only change your answers if you have double-checked and can prove to yourself that the changed answer is correct.