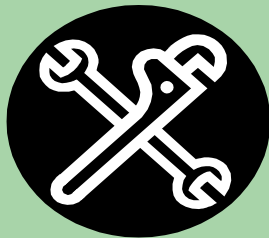


**QUESTION SIX– DID YOU MAKE MISTAKES THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THE PRESSURE OF LIMITED TIME OR TEST ANXIETY?**

**Suggested Study Solutions –**

- 1) Before you start, look over the whole exam. Based on the point value and the difficulty of each question, decide how much time you will spend on each section.
- 2) Write neatly so you can follow your thought process.
- 3) Be wary of answers that don't make sense.
- 4) Take questions at face value. Don't try to read too much into the questions.
- 5) Don't change answers unless you suddenly recall new information that you had forgotten.
- 6) Answer the easier questions first to get your mind working and to provide a background to answer the more difficult questions.
- 7) The Study Skills Lab has a video on **Controlling Test Anxiety Before it Controls You**.
- 8) Realize that exam pressure happens to everyone at some time.



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**ANALYZE  
Your  
TEST**

**STUDY SKILLS CENTER SERIES  
ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENT**



**Bowling Green  
State University**

# ANALYZE YOUR TEST

This brochure is especially for those students who felt prepared going into the exam and got “blown away”, and for those students who felt good after the exam but were unpleasantly surprised when the exam was returned.

## WHY SHOULD YOU ANALYZE YOUR TEST?

It's important for you to know **why** you missed the questions. Then you can make decisions as to what study strategies worked and what didn't work for a particular course, and you can make adjustments if needed. Don't let your **ego** get in the way of finding out how you can study more effectively.

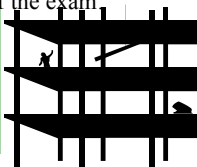
When the exam is returned, look at the questions that were missed. Ask yourself the following questions to help you determine **why** they were missed.

**QUESTION ONE– DID YOU UNDERSTAND THE MATERIAL?** This is a serious problem if you went into the exam feeling that you understood the material.

### Suggested Study Solutions –

1) Know what **mastery** of the material means. **Mastery means you can write (or explain) the material or work the problems** (in science or math). Find out what you don't know by closing the book and notes at the end of the study session and write down everything you can remember. Re-study what you cannot remember. Repeat the same procedure during subsequent study sessions until you have mastered the material.

2) **Mastery** means that you understood the material at increasingly difficult levels. Professors design exams to test students at all different levels of knowledge. (see brochure on **Asking the Right Questions**). You may be able to answer all the questions at one level (ex. recall level), but those types of questions may constitute only a small part of the exam.



3) Once you begin to understand something, don't leave it. **Go in for the kill.** Cement your understanding by making sure you really do understand. This can mean working additional problems, make up your own problems, or write the main points. If you do not cement your understanding now, when you do pick up your studying again, you will again be starting at the beginning.

## QUESTION TWO– DID YOU SPEND ENOUGH TIME STUDYING THE MATERIAL THAT THE PROFESSOR FELT WAS IMPORTANT?

**Suggested Study Solution** – Your professor may have given clues in the lecture and assignments as to what material should be emphasized....

- 1) When the professor spends a long time on the topic, you should spend a proportional amount of study time on the topic.
- 2) The professor uses a number of examples or problems to illustrate a concept.
- 3) The professor writes the topics on the blackboard or transparency.
- 4) The professor refers back to the topic in subsequent lectures.
- 5) The professor tells you that the material is important.

## QUESTION THREE– DID YOU MISS PROBLEMS?

**Suggested Study Solutions** – Ask yourself the following questions:

- #1) Did you know what the answer should be (ex. volume) and in what units?
- #2) Did you know the background material well enough in your head to answer the question?
- #3) Did you know what formulas to use?
- #4) Did you know how to do the math calculations?
- #5) Did the answer seem reasonable?

**Know what's bothering you about a problem–** Use the above 5 questions to help you determine why you cannot work a problem. Look for a pattern in what you missed. For example, if you do not understand the underlying material (#2), you will not be able to solve the problems.

**Get out of your Comfort Zone.** Don't work only the easy problems. The key to answering problems correctly on the test is to have worked enough problems (including the difficult ones) so that you have a “feel” for working a problem-type (ex. density). This means **practice, practice, practice.**

There are no shortcuts. Don't focus only on procedures for solving problems. Concentrate also on understanding the basics so you will be able to deal with all the ways that you can be asked questions about the material.

## QUESTION FOUR– WAS THE WORDING OF THE QUESTIONS DIFFERENT FROM HOW YOU LEARNED THE MATERIAL?

**Suggested Study Solution** – Get used to working with different ways of saying the same thing. Practice explaining in your own words as much as possible. Draw diagrams or make lists so that you organize the material in ways that are meaningful to you and will help you to remember.

## QUESTION FIVE– DID YOU “KNOW” THE MATERIAL BUT STILL MISSED IT?

**Suggested Study Solutions** – This is a problem of accessing the material from your head, not a problem of understanding it. When the answer doesn't come immediately, students may panic and guess wildly. Instead of guessing in a panic....

- 1) Look for key terms in the stem of the question that may help you to link up with the key terms in your brain.
- 2) Think about all you know about the topic. Try to visualize your notes.
- 3) Give yourself time to think. If you cannot think of the answer, cross out the obviously wrong answers and make an educated guess. Circle the question to remind yourself to come back to it and continue.

