

NAME _____

DATE _____

MAT0012/MAT0020

STUDY SKILLS ASSIGNMENT

TEST 2: TEST ANALYSIS

Now that you have taken your first test, how successful was your preparation? Your grade may reflect how well you prepared, but you need to know more than just your score! What questions did you do well on? What questions did you miss? Knowing your strengths and weaknesses as a test-taker will help you to perform better on future tests.

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS.

OPTION 1: STRATEGY SEMINAR

If you believe test-anxiety affected your performance, attend the "Math Anxiety" Seminar in ETA230. Verify your attendance by having the presenter sign your homework and lab assignment sheet in the appropriate section. (Students enrolled in 12-week or "Express" terms may substitute another seminar. The Strategy Seminar schedule is available online at <http://www.pbcc.edu/x4166.xml>.)

OPTION 2: ANALYZING YOUR TEST RESULTS

If you scored 100% on your test, congratulations!! Skip Parts 1 and 2 and complete the survey in Part 3.

Part 1: Test Analysis

Follow the steps listed below to complete the **Test Analysis Form** attached to this assignment sheet.

1. In column 1, write the question number of any problem you lost points on.
2. Record the number of points you lost in column 2.
3. Find the problem in your book (check your homework and class notes for similar problems). Write the section and page number in column 3. (*Ask your instructor if you need help with this step.*)
4. Determine the reason(s) why the answer was incorrect. Listed at the top of the form are common mistakes students make on math tests. Examine this list and check any column that applies.
5. Look at the columns you checked. Where did you lose the most points? On the back side of the form, are strategies for avoiding these errors. Note any strategies that apply in the space provided at the bottom.

Part 2: Test Corrections

On a separate sheet of notebook paper, rework any problems you got wrong. **If you made concept errors, do at least 5 or 6 similar problems to master the concept.** Show your work. Attach the completed form and your test corrections to this assignment sheet and return it to your instructor.

Part 3: Survey (optional)

On a separate sheet of notebook paper, describe how you studied for the test by answering the following questions:

1. How much time did you spend studying? When did you begin your review?
2. What materials did you use to prepare? Did use class notes or note cards? Did you review examples in the book or homework problems? Did you watch the video lectures? Did you take any practice tests?
3. Did you go to the Math Lab or attend SI Sessions? If so, how often?

STRATEGIES FOR BETTER TEST-TAKING

| ERROR | STRATEGIES |
|---|---|
| Misread the Directions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <u>all</u> directions carefully. • Ask your instructor to clarify any directions you do not understand. • Note the directions for homework problems in your book, such as "simplify," "solve," and "evaluate," and write down the steps you need to solve the problems correctly. |
| Careless Errors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave time toward the end of the test to review your answers. Check your arithmetic. Look for sign or distributing errors. Make sure you've circled or boxed the correct answer. • Don't shortcut the solving process. Write down the steps you used to solve a problem. This may earn you points if you make a mistake. It will also make it easier to spot careless errors. • Think about it – if you solve problems in your head and show no work, how will you know if you've made a mistake? How many points will you get if your instructor has nothing to grade? |
| Concept Errors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a list of all the concept errors you made. <i>Do this for every test!</i> • Review the examples in your book and/or class notes; watch the video lectures. • Ask your instructor, a tutor, or your SI leader to help you learn how to do the problem correctly. • Do at least 5 or 6 similar problems to make sure you've mastered the concept. • Take the chapter tests in your book, check your answers in the back of the book, and watch the "Test Prep video" to make sure you are solving the problems correctly. • Do any practice tests provided by your instructor or SI leader, or make your own practice test using the "Chapter Highlights" and homework problems. Take the test and grade it. |
| Application Errors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use examples from your class notes to predict applications and word problems that may be tested on. • Practice applications and word problems until you've mastered the process. • Memorize the solving strategy and write it on your test (data dump). |
| Test-Taking Errors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preview your test and budget your time – do easier problems first; save harder problems for last. Star any problems with more than one step. • Work in an organized manner. If you use scrap paper, number the problems so you can check your work more easily. • Never leave a question blank. Ask yourself, "<i>Did you solve similar problems on the test?</i>" Try that same strategy. • Did you change any answers and get the problems wrong? If so, don't change an answer unless you know you've made a mistake, (<i>Your first guess is usually correct!</i>) • If you get stuck on a problem, STOP! Don't erase your work. Solve the other problems to gain the most points you can. When you finish, try the problem again if there's time. If not, leave your work – it may be correct. • Reread all word problems. Make sure you've answered the question. <i>Does your answer make sense?</i> Check the solution in the original problem. • Review your work for accuracy and completeness. "<i>Did you miscopy any questions?</i>" <i>Did you miscopy work from scrap paper?</i>" <i>Did you solve every problem completely?</i> |
| Study Errors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure you know what sections are covered on the test. • Review prior tests to see what problems were tested on. • Know the material well. Give yourself enough time to practice homework problems. The more you practice, the more you will recall steps on a test. |
| <p>Review the strategies above and make list of things you can do to become a more effective test taker.</p> <hr/> <hr/> | |