



Analyzing “Returned” Tests

Analyzing returned tests can help you understand why you made errors, so that you can adjust your study strategies, review techniques, and test-taking strategies to improve your performance on subsequent tests.

If you do not get your test back, visit your instructor. Ask to see your test so that you can determine why you gave incorrect responses. Your instructor is an excellent resource for analyzing your returned test. Talk through how you arrived at your answers. Look for key terms in the question that determine the correct answer. Look at the difference between incorrect answers and correct answers and determine why. Your instructor can then point out your knowledge gaps and how you can better prepare for the next exam.

Review returned tests with your study partner or study group. Determine changes you can make in your review sessions to learn the material more effectively and develop more effective test-taking strategies.

Use the following checklists to analyze your returned tests:

After you have analyzed your test determine what corrective action you need to take to improve your performance on your next test.

Remember to use all available Palmer College resources: your instructor; other classmates; your study partner or study group. If you are in a class for which supplemental instruction or tutoring such as the P.A.S.S. Program tutorial service is provided, attend regularly.

Important: Also please be aware of the Student Code of Ethics found in the Student Handbook regarding possession of old tests. Possession of old tests are only ethical when the instructor permits it, lets students keep their own tests, or makes example questions available to students. Otherwise this is unethical and Counseling Services is by no means promoting the analysis of old tests students are not allowed to possess. Be sure to read the course syllabus and clearly understand these policies and what the instructor permits. If tests are not returned, make an appointment with the instructor during their open office hours and ask to see your test for analysis and go over it with them.

Resource: Utah State University Academic Resource Center.

