



***Enhanced Learning
Educational Services***
“the study skills specialist”

AFTER TESTS AND EXAMS



To achieve your best academically you need to make the most of all feedback from any tests or examinations.

- You should read each point and **highlight the key phrases** in that point.
- Discuss with a friend or parent as you read through the handout.
- You may like to work through this over a number of sessions.



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Enhanced Learning Educational Services Profile

Our Organisation:

Enhanced Learning Educational Services (ELES) is the leading provider of study skills resources in Australia. Since 2001 over 500,000 students across Australia have benefited from our study skills worksheets and workbooks. An Australian business based in Sydney, our clients extend throughout Australia and to international schools overseas. We are committed to helping all students improve their ability to learn and study by providing study skills seminars and resources on the topics students need.

Our Mission:

To provide a worthwhile and effective service to teachers, students and parents, enhancing students' learning skills and abilities through dynamic programs, resources and strategies to unlock the power of the mind and enable greater success at school and in life.

Our Commitment:

As part of ELES' commitment to education, 5% of all gross income is donated to charities that help and assist children.

For further information about ELES or our products or contact details:

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1. WHY DO WE HAVE TESTS

Lots of students think that tests are just about your teachers getting grades for your report.

But tests are important in:

- **ASSESSING KNOWLEDGE**
(what do you actually know?)
- **PINPOINTING WEAKNESSES**
(what DON'T you know?)



It is only in TEST CONDITIONS that you can really work out what it is you understand and what you need to work on.

Why do you need to worry about this?

Well in many subjects you need to ensure you understand earlier work in order to fully understand the following topics.

So actually use the examinations as a chance to **FIND WAYS YOU CAN IMPROVE.**

If you just throw the test paper into the bin or a drawer and forget about it, you lose the opportunity to work out **HOW YOU CAN DO BETTER** in future tests and exams.



a. Do you agree with these reasons for why we have tests? Can you think of any other reasons why you might have to have tests?

2. WHEN YOUR TEST IS RETURNED TO YOU IN CLASS

- Check your marks carefully: it is easy when teachers are doing lots of marking for them to make a mistake in the adding up.
- Look at the things you got right and did well.
- Now look at the questions you got wrong and see if you understand what you did incorrectly and how to do it properly.
- Ask your teacher about anything you didn't understand or can't work out.



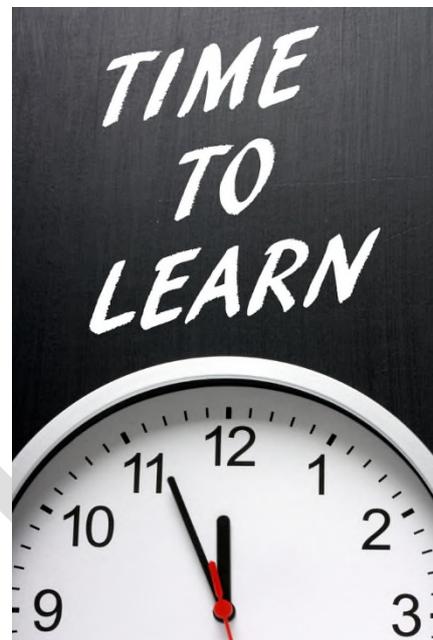
b. Do you do each of these when a test is returned to you in class? Can you think of anything else you should do when a test is returned to you?

3. WHEN YOU GET HOME THAT NIGHT

When you get home file your test away with your notes from this topic or in a folder where you keep past tests.

Then ask yourself the following questions:

- What sections do I need to improve in and why?
- What had I forgotten that I needed to review more in-depth?
- Are there particular types of questions (eg multiple choice) that I am weak on?
- Are there sections of the course I need to review and re-learn?
- Are there questions I still need to ask for help on as I don't know what I've done wrong?
- What worked well in my preparation for this subject?
- What changes should I make when preparing for this subject?
- Was the way I studied effective?
- Did I do enough preparation for this test?
- What examination techniques do I need to improve?
- What strategy did I use in the way I approached the examination? Was it effective? What changes do I need to make to the techniques I use in examinations?



The aim is to keep trying to improve on your performance and keep looking for ways to learn from the experience.

DISCUSS

c. Do you do each of these when you get home after getting a test back? Can you think of anything else you should ask yourself when a test is returned to you?

4. CONSIDER YOUR RESULTS

If you didn't do as well as you might have liked, what was the reason for this?

Ask yourself:

- I didn't do enough study.
- I had exam nerves on the day.
- I had missed some of the work and didn't catch up.
- I didn't study effectively.
- My exam technique was not very good.
- I spent too long on some questions and not enough on others.
- I studied the wrong things.
- I should have done more actual practice not just reading it.
- I ran out of time in my study time.
- I didn't look at the clock in the exam.
- I procrastinated.
- I didn't do enough preparation for my exam.



d. Do you take the time when a test is returned to you to consider why you received the results you did?

5. WITHIN A WEEK OR SO AFTER THE TEST

Within a week or so after the test:

- **REDO SECTIONS:** If you did a particular section really badly, redo it and ask your teacher to have a look and see if you have improved.
- **RESUBMIT ESSAYS:** Rewrite and resubmit essay questions you did poorly in.
- **UPDATE STUDY NOTES:** Update all your study notes and summaries with things you need to remember for next time based on what you learnt from the exam.
- **LIST TO REMEMBER:** Write a list of what you need to remember for next time.

- **CHECK UNDERSTANDING:** Check you really understand the things you got wrong. Don't just leave them as they will come back to haunt you one day! Instead, ask your teacher to help you understand them.
- **AREAS OF WEAKNESS:** Make a list of the topic areas you are weak on or will need to review again. Many of the subsequent topics you study will build upon these so it is important that you build a solid foundation of knowledge.
- **ASK TEACHER:** Talk with your teacher about what you could do to improve.



e. Do you do each of these in a week or so after getting a test back? Can you think of anything else you should do when a test is returned to you?

6. MAKE SURE YOU DON'T JUST BAND-AID

Make sure you aren't just putting a band-aid on your problems by not looking through your examination properly.

- **LEARN AS MUCH AS YOU CAN FROM THE EXPERIENCE.**

Keep a list of things you need to remember next time and a list of specific areas you still need to work on. Update your study notes, perhaps they weren't as comprehensive in some parts as they should have been.

- **TALK TO OTHER STUDENTS WHO DID WELL.**

Ask them how they prepared, how they studied and what else they did in order to achieve such a good mark. See if you can pick up any tips that would help you with your preparation next time.

- **ASK YOUR TEACHER FOR HELP.**

Don't feel uncomfortable about asking your teacher for some time to sit down and go through your paper, especially if you can't understand why you were given a particular mark. Simply ask when would be a good time to discuss the paper. Your teacher will be pleased you are making the effort and be more than happy to spare some time for you.

