



***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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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?

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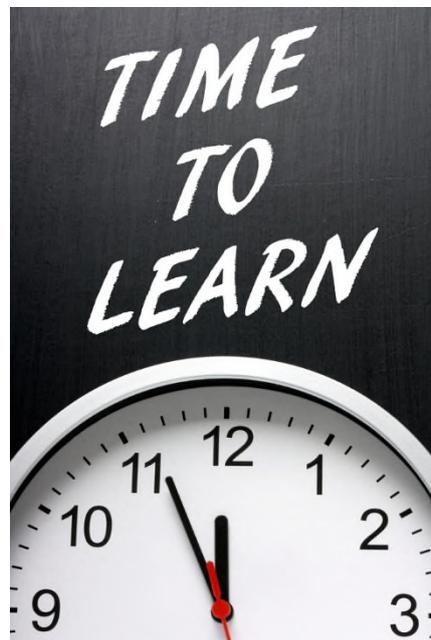
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3. WHEN YOU GET HOME THAT NIGHT

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.



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?

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