

HOW TO GAIN USEFUL INFORMATION FROM YOUR EXAMINATIONS (AFTER THEY ARE RETURNED TO YOU)

STEP ONE

1. For each question missed, write out what your thinking process was while answering the question.
 - a. Try to identify the source of difficulty.
 - i. Did you have trouble with a specific word?
What was the word? How did you interpret the word? In psychology courses, for example, you will find common words used in specialized ways. As a result, you have to pause and be sure you have interpreted the word in the specialized way.
 - ii. Did you have trouble with course terminology?
If so, what was the term? What interpretation did you think? Was there confusion? If so, what was the confusion?
 - b. Did you have difficulty with the wording of a sentence? If so, how did you read the sentence?
 - c. Did you run out of time? How much more time did you need? How did you budget your time to start?
 - d. Did you simply not know the answer?
2. Look at each question missed. What type of question was asked?
 - a. Definition
Fact
Concept } All of these require memorization
 - b. Cause and Effect
Comparison/Contrast
Analysis/Synthesis
Application (Given a situation
what would happen?) } All of these require higher level thinking
3. If you did not know the answer, look at your text and lecture notes.
 - a. Did you recognize the significance of the information and indicate in any way that it was important by underlining or making notes in the margin? If not, why not?
 - b. If you did note the significance, what could you have done to learn the information?

STEP TWO

Review what you have written. Write your conclusions about your process of thought.

STEP THREE

Develop a plan of action for change in the way you review, memorize, or attack an exam question.