

☹️ Are you frustrated or confused about your performance on a recent test? ☹️

To better your performance on the next test and improve your overall grade in the class, it's necessary to critically evaluate your performance on this last test: evaluate what went wrong in your studying and make a plan!

1. **Identify Your Resources:** Create a list of the resources you have in this class. These resources can include the following, but check your syllabus for others: textbook or e-book, class notes, office hours, tutorial center, individual tutor, friend, homework assignment, practice tests, additional books from the library.

2. **Identify Your Study Habits:** Make a detailed chart, day-by-day, of how you studied for the test. Note both the resource you were using and the time spent. Be detailed and accurate! An example is below:

Monday 1.5 hours	Reworking homework problems
Tuesday 1 hour	Practicing example from class notes
Tuesday 30 minutes	Skimming class notes
Wednesday 2 hours	Taking and correcting practice test

3. Identify the Problem:

- Circle each question on the test that you got completely wrong and those where you lost points.
- Using your book, notes, practice tests, homework, and any other resources for your class, locate the most similar problem to each of these. (Be persistent until you're sure you've found the most similar problem available.)
- Collect these problems and work them without your resources, one after another, just like a test. (Give yourself only the amount of time per question that you had on the test.)
- Check your answers.
- For those questions you got correct, make an appointment to discuss these with a tutor or your instructor and ask them to help you identify how the problems are similar/different from ones on the test.
- For those questions you got incorrect, go back and use your resources to rework the problem.
- Rework the actual test questions. Check your answers.
- Complete the chart below for each question.

Test Question	Topic being tested	Textbook	Notes	Similar question location
		Chapter: Page #:	Date covered: Key points in notes:	

i. For each missed question, determine what went wrong in your studying that prevented you from Getting the question correct on the test. Here are possible reasons:

- Did not have key equations, terms, etc memorized
- Did not manage time during test appropriately
- Had not practiced similar questions
- Had practiced the similar questions but not reviewed them right before the test
- Had practiced the similar questions but had help from someone and had not tried it myself
- Had practiced the similar questions but not until I could do them without using resources or using multiple tried to get them correct

4. Make a Plan:

You should plan to study in a way that will prevent the types of mistakes you made on this test. For example,

- Where did you find most of the similar questions? Do you need to spend more time with this resource?
- Did you run out of time? You need to practice questions, eventually doing them without your resources and giving yourself the amount of time you'll have on the test.
- Did you not memorize what you needed to? Go through your notes and write down everything that must be memorized.

Important: You are not ready for the test until you can work problems (from the resources that your instructor deems important) correctly, on the first try, in a limited amount of time. If you want to get an 80% on the next test, then you should continue working practice problems until you are getting 80% or more correct on the first try!

Test Correction Guide

Steps:

- 1) Identify which problem you missed and why you missed it.
- 2) Explain in your own words what mistakes you made on this problem.
- 3) Show your corrected work.
- 4) Identify how you can avoid this mistake in the future (other than study more). (Be specific: What resources should you use? How?)

Example:

- 1) Test 1, #2: A race car starting from rest accelerates at a constant rate of 5.00 m/s². What is the velocity of the car after it has traveled 1.00 x 10² ft.?
- 2) I didn't write down my knowns and unknowns. I didn't pay attention to units and therefore didn't convert the distance to SI units. Also, I didn't know that "starting from rest" means "initial velocity = 0" and therefore didn't know which kinematic formula to use.
- 3) $V_0 = 0$, $a = 5 \text{ m/s}^2$, $\Delta x = 1 \times 10^2 \text{ ft}$, $v = ?$ (v is the final velocity)

Convert Δx to meters: $100 \text{ ft} \times (1 \text{ m}/3.281 \text{ ft}) = 30.5 \text{ m}$

 $v^2 = v_0^2 + 2a\Delta x = (0)^2 + 2(5\text{m/s}^2)(30.5\text{m})$

 $v = 17.5 \text{ m/s}$ (don't forget to take the square root!)
- 4) I could have avoided this mistake by working and understanding example problems in the ebook. There is a very similar example on p. 37. I should always start by writing down my unknown and knowns, including units.