

PLANNING FOR YOUR NEXT TEST

What would you think about an exercise that jacks up your score on an exam? Students who used this exercise did better than randomly assigned control students who were encouraged to review. How much better did they do? Their scores were 3 to 4 percentage points better (about one third of a letter grade).

This exercise can be saved and then completed on your computer/device or it can be printed out and completed with a pen. There are four sections: 1) Details about the test; 2) Resource checklist; 3) A plan for the test; 4) Follow up. (This exercise is based on Chen, Chavez, Ong and Gunderson, 2017.)

DETAILS ABOUT THE TEST

The date, time, and place of the test is:

The test will cover this textbook material:

The exam format will be:

The grade I intend to earn is:

RESOURCE CHECKLIST

Identify the resources that are available to you and place a checkmark in the column to the right. In the next two columns, note whether you've used that resource in the past and whether it was helpful. Finally, check if you intend to use that resource for your upcoming test. In the spaces at the bottom, list additional resources that are available at your school.

Resource	Available to you?	Used in the past?	Helpful in the past?	I intend to use for upcoming test
Textbook				
Class Notes				
Textbook Problems				
List of Key Terms				
Margin Definitions				
Instructor's Office Hours				
Teaching Assistant's Office Hours				
Classmate's Notes				
Out-of-Class Study Group				
Tutoring Session				
Practice Exams				
Additional Problem Sets				
<i>Add additional resources here</i>				

A PLAN FOR THE TEST

In the table that follows, write the items from your checklist that you intend to use when preparing for your test. Explain how each resource will be helpful. Be as specific as you can. Knowing when the test will be administered, work backward and write in the date you will use that resource.

Resource you will use	How it will be helpful	When it will be used

EVALUATION OF EXERCISE

After the exam is over and your grade is in, return to your plan. Assess the usefulness of the resources you took advantage of. Put this material in a place that will be easy to find before your next test.