

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE TEST?

Knowing the various aspects of the testing situation is valuable in deciding what to study, in how much detail to study, and what level of learning you should achieve. If you don't know these aspects, find out – ask the instructor, the TA's, fellow classmates, former students, etc.

QUESTION TO ANSWER

IMPLICATIONS OF ANSWERS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. What kind of test will it be? Objective, short answer, essay, multiple choice... | Objective test will necessitate your learning more specific facts and being able to <u>recognize</u> answers. Subjective (essay) tests mean you will have to have an overall understanding of the material, with less emphasis on learning specific facts. |
| 2. How many items will be on the test? | Knowing the number of items to be asked in proportion to the amount of material to be covered gives an indicator of the extent of coverage. |
| 3. How much time will you have for the test? | Compare the number of questions to be answered to the amount of time. This will tell whether you will have to recall quickly or can take more time to think. |
| 4. What is the relative importance of course requirements? Will text be covered more heavily, will lecture notes be on the test, are lab experiments to be covered on the test, etc.? | Knowing what will be covered on the test and to what extent will help you to gear your study time in the most important sources. |
| 5. What is the emphasis on the various topics? If all the lectures and text readings are to be covered, which topics are most important? | Budget your study time accordingly. Learn the heaviest portion first. |
| 6. Who is writing the test? The professor, TA, or is it a departmental test? | If you know who is writing the test and what their biases are, you will know how to gear your studying and how to word your answers |