

Looking at Past Tests to Improve

How Can *My Mistakes* Make
Me an “A”



Objectives of Presentation

- What to do when leaving a test
- Identifying patterns
- Analyzing past approach
- Predicting future tests' questions
- Correcting why you missed past questions



After Each Test...

- Upon leaving from the test
 - Take note of the style and format of the tests
 - Most teachers will repeat that style
 - Think about what the questions asked you to know
- Upon the test being given back...
 - Don't simply concentrate on your score
 - Look at what you did right and what you did wrong
 - Seek patterns or types of questions



What do I need to do to look for patterns?

- Ask:
 - What kinds of questions did you have the most difficulty with?
 - Essay, identification, word problems, etc.
 - Which questions were worth the most points?
 - Where does the teacher place the greatest emphasis?
 - What can you do to improve on your next test?
 - How can my studying and test-taking techniques improve?
 - How can make sure you get more of the high value questions correct next time?



Reviewing Your Basic Approach

- Make a list of the things that you need to do to be more successful in your next test. Ask questions like:
 - How can I make sure I understand the material?
 - Do I need to manage my time better so I can spend more time studying?
 - How can I determine what is important to study?
 - How should I prepare for the test?
 - What strategies should I use while taking the test?



Test Questions: Predictions

- Understands what the teacher will be giving you
 - Where are the questions coming from?
 - Text/Reading Assignments
 - Supplemental Sources (videos, handouts, etc.)
 - Lecture
 - What material was most heavily emphasized
- Write sample questions based on past style and by answering the above questions



Past Questions: Why Did I Miss Them?

- Four Main Possible Reasons
 - Confusion over the question
 - Next time: ask the teacher, rewrite the question
 - Lack of knowledge
 - Poor test-taking skills
 - Next time: use prior knowledge of test format to adjust strategy
 - Testing Anxiety
 - Next time: better studying and test analysis can reduce this



Questions?

