

ANTICIPATING CONTENT STRATEGIES

The ability to predict what material you will be tested on is one of the most important skills a student can develop. By narrowing down the information that you have to study, you are able to focus your studying and improve the depth to which you can learn about a particular subject. Anticipating content can also significantly lower the amount of work you need to do for exam preparation. There are several different approaches you can use and signs you can watch out for, to discover what your Instructor will be testing you on.

- Ask the Instructor what will be on the exam. This is the easiest solution, but Instructors will rarely give you all of the details.
- Put yourself in the Instructor's position. Think of what you would ask if you were the Instructor. What have you covered repeatedly throughout the term? What were the main themes of the course? What points did the Instructor drive home during the lecture?
- Attend all of your lectures. Lectures will give you a feel for what the Instructor thinks is important. Also, the instructor might tell students who are attending classes what will be on the exam.
- Pay attention to any questions the Instructor asks to the class. If the Instructor dwells on or emphasizes a subject make a note of it.

Study Strategies for Anticipating Content

- Use Active Reading strategies (e.g. PQ4R)
 - Keep track of the questions you come up with during reading. Use these questions later to help form your study guides. In answering these questions, you can keep track of what you have learnt and also see if there are any common themes in the questions.
- Lecture Preparation
 - While previewing for the lecture, keep track of any questions you have. Ask yourself questions about what you will be covering that day, and make sure these questions are answered either in lecture or while studying.

Once you have anticipated the content of the exam, you can use this to create mock exams. It is important here to know what sort of questions you will be asked so that you can prepare proper questions on your mock exam. You can use this exam to study by yourself or in a group with friends. Practice answering the questions and translating what is in your mind onto the page. The more familiar you are with doing this the better you will do on an exam, regardless of the information covered.