

Test Explanations is an optional assignment that can raise your percentage on a chapter test.

Which Problems to Explain

You can choose which problems you would like to explain.

- Up to 75% of points missed on multiple choice problems can be regained.
- Up to 25% of points missed on other problems can be regained.
- Do not explain problems on which you only lost one point.

What to Write

For each problem you explain, write what you would show or say to someone you were tutoring who was about to take a similar test. There is no specific format or approach you must use, but in general you can get the most points by explaining the problems in a way that someone could use your explanations to recognize and solve other related problems. The steps below are a good outline, especially for complex problems.

- Define any essential terms that specifically apply to the problem. You may use your own words or copy definitions from the notes or other sources. There is no need to define terms from previous chapters or courses, unless you think your explanations would be unclear without doing so.
- If the problem is a reasoning question, explain how to use reasoning to reach the answer, making use of the definitions as appropriate. It is often helpful to explain why other listed answers cannot be correct.
- If the problem involves a step-by-step process, start by using the definitions to conceptually summarize how to do the type of problem, and then give directions for this type of problem and carefully explain how each step of these directions is applied in this particular problem. As with definitions, directions can be in your own words or copied from the notes or other sources; what will actually be graded is your explanation of these directions in the context of the problem, not the directions themselves.

What Not to Write

- Use separate paper. Do not write on the test itself.
- Do not copy any work or explanations that were written after the test was given, such as by a tutor.
- Do not explain what you did wrong on your test, unless you are using that to help explain how to do the problem correctly.

Getting Help

You can work with a tutor or anyone else, as long as you do not copy anything written by someone else after the test was given.

- The answer key for each test will be posted on the wall, except for answers that are already explanations.
- You can have as much help as you want from any source.

Due Date

You can turn in test explanations any time before the day of the next test. Staple the test to the front.

- An absence (excused or unexcused) does not allow test explanations to be turned in late, unless the absence covers every school day from the day the tests were returned to the class until the day the test explanations were due. Avoid waiting until the last day to turn test explanations, because if you are absent or forget that day, you will not have another opportunity to turn them in.
- If you are absent for a test and do not take it right away when you return, you may not get it back in time to turn in test explanations.

Grading

After test explanations, each test is worth a total of 100 points instead of 75. If you do not do test explanations, your percentage will stay the same. Each problem you do explain can raise your score, based on three factors:

- **Understanding:** How well you understand what you are explaining
- **Explaining:** How useful what you wrote would be to someone learning the material
- **Rigor:** How mathematically complete, accurate, and precise your explanations are