

Tips for Predicting Test Questions

- ☑ **Get organized.** Have a separate section in your notebook labeled "Test Questions" or carry a stack of note cards with you. Add several questions to that section or stack after every lecture and assignment.
- ☑ **Flag possible test questions in your notes.** Establish a system or symbol for marking possible questions in your notes. Use post-it flags, a highlighter, or a written symbol like *T!* in a circle.
- ☑ **Ask your instructor to describe the test.** Ask how long it will be and what type of questions to expect. Do this early in the semester so you can be alert to possible test questions early.
- ☑ **Observe what the instructor says as well as how he/she says it.** Instructors give clues in their speech, gestures, and overall behaviors. Pay attention to topics that are repeated in several lectures. Take note when an instructor seems to be putting an extra emphasis on certain points with hand gestures, pauses, or by reading directly from his/her notes.
- ☑ **Pay attention to questions that come up in class.** Note the questions your instructor poses to students as well as the questions that other students ask.
- ☑ **When material from reading assignments is also covered extensively in class, it is likely to be on the test.** Your instructor will likely focus on what he/she thinks is important. Tests will usually focus on what's important.
- ☑ **Turn key words from notes and reading into questions.** Use words like those on the following list to turn a key word or multiple terms into a practice test questions. *Analyze, Compare, Contrast, Criticize, Define, Describe, Explain, Identify, Illustrate, Prove, Relate, Summarize, etc.*
- ☑ **What kind of questions would you ask?** Put yourself in the instructor's shoes. If you were teaching the class, what would you ask your students?
- ☑ **Save all graded material.** Utilize homework assignments, lab sheets, old papers, tests, and quizzes while studying. If copies of old exams are available, use them to predict questions.
- ☑ **Replace variables in old problems and practice solving them.** In math and science classes use problems from homework, quizzes, and lectures but insert new variables. Practice solving them without your notes, or with only what you're allowed to have during the test.
- ☑ **Brainstorm possible questions with other students.** Plan a study group where each student has his/her own review materials. When you get together pose questions to one another and have one member of the group record and compile all of the questions to be distributed to everyone in the group.
- ☑ **Be on the lookout for these words:** "This material will be on the test".

Modified from:

Becoming a Master Student 8th Edition, Dave Ellis.