

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

## Which Problems to Explain

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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

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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 can be 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 be graded is your explanation of these directions in the context of the problem, not the directions themselves.

## What Not to Write

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- 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

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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

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You can turn in test explanations any day before the day of the next test.

- The deadline is lunch on the day before the test.
- Staple the test to the front of your explanations pages.
- Turn it in to the To-Be-Graded tray. Do not turn it in elsewhere or submit it online.

## Grading

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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