

# Exam Autopsy

**EXAM:**

**DATE:**

**DIRECTIONS:**

1. List the questions and #s for each item missed on the exam
2. Place a check in the column that best describes the reason you answered the item incorrectly
3. Total the number of checks in each column to determine what factors most affected you
4. Review possible solutions for test errors

Test Item Missed	Insufficient Information								Test Anxiety				Careless Mistakes				Lack of Test Wisdom				Other							
	I did not read the text book thoroughly.	The information was not in my notes.	I studied the information but could not remember it.	I knew the main ideas but needed the details.	I knew the information but couldn't apply it.	I studied the wrong information.	Missed or did not understand the vocabulary/terms.	Answer did not match the essay directive/key word.	I experienced a mental block.	I was tired during the test and couldn't concentrate.	I was hungry during the test and couldn't concentrate.	I panicked during the test.	I made careless mistakes – I knew the correct answer.	I changed a correct answer to a wrong one.	I misread the directions.	I misread or misunderstands tood the question.	I wrote an incomplete response.	I did not notice a double-negative statement.	I did not eliminate obviously incorrect choices.	I did not choose the best answer choice.	I did not notice limiting words.	I made poor use of the time provided for the test.	I ran out of time/did not budget my time appropriately.					
<b>Number of Items Missed:</b>																												

# Exam Autopsy

## Check what you did **before** the exam:

- Read & highlighted/underlined the textbook
- Combined notes from text with lecture notes
- Prepared a test study guide
- Studied with other students from class
- Got help from TA or Professor
- Got ample sleep night before test
- Previewed assigned reading before class
- Attended all lectures
- Reviewed previous notes before next lecture
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Check what you did **during** the exam:

- Glance through exam before doing any work
- Read the instructions carefully
- Complete the easiest questions first
- Ask for clarification of unclear questions
- Underlined key words in question
- Became so anxious to affect my performance
- Budgeted my time based on question weight
- Did the exam questions in order
- Skipped hard questions & returned later
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## SO NOW WHAT DO I DO WITH ALL OF THIS??

Look at where you had the most difficulty from the Exam Autopsy Worksheet. Were most of your missed questions because of insufficient information? Or were they a result of careless mistakes?

Identifying where you struggle the most can help to pinpoint specific tactics for you to use either in preparation for or during the exam. Based on where you struggle the most according to the worksheet, try some of the following approaches to improve before your next exam!

### Insufficient Info or Lack of Test Wisdom

- ✓ Attend tutoring, study groups, or visit professor's office hours..
- ✓ Keep up with material - falling behind can make you feel overwhelmed and even less motivated!
- ✓ Clarify concepts by asking questions during lecture and participating in class discussions.
- ✓ Your suggestion:

### Text anxiety or Careless Mistakes

- ✓ Underline key words in questions so you can keep track of important information and directions.
- ✓ Skip difficult questions and return to them later - your brain may need more thinking time to process the info before you answer it!
- ✓ Ask for help during exam for clarification.
- ✓ Your suggestion: