Good Test Preparation

جـــامـعــة
الملك سعود
King Saud University

الشـــؤون التعـــليمية والأكـــاديمية
مركـــز التميز في التعـــلم والتعـــليم

> One of the basics of good test preparation is to be consistent with the learning outcomes of the course.

When you start writing questions

✓ **Make sure that the test includes a variety of questions (essay and objective)**, allowing all students to demonstrate their abilities.

✓ **Write clear, explicit instructions**, general to all questions or specific to each question as needed. This will help the students decide what you want them to do. Thus, the student does not have to make assumptions that he will fail to answer. (For example, indicate whether you want the answers to be written in paragraphs or points...).

✓ **Avoid putting difficult questions at the beginning of the test,** so it will not affect the students' confidence in their performance. A 2021 study showed that students were more likely to perform worse on a test when the difficult questions were at the beginning rather than at the middle or end of the test.

Before you start preparing for the test...

❑ **Ask yourself what you want to assess in light of the learning outcomes of the course:**
- Knowledge and skills and how to apply them.
- Products and how they were produced.
- Ability to articulate and present arguments and evidence.
- The ability to extract conclusions.

❑ **Prioritize the knowledge and skills consistent with the learning outcomes to focus on in the questions:**
- Use the topic list in the course plan.
- Browse power point presentations and lecture notes.
- Review the chapter titles and sub-titles in the course specific readings.

- https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/teaching-resources/teaching-tips/developing-assignments/exams/exam-preparation
- https://teaching.washington.edu/topics/preparing-to-teach/constructing-tests/
- https://www.edworkingpapers.com/ai21-392

Enriching Resources