

Exam Review Tips

1. **GO WITH AN OPEN MIND:** Approach exam review as opportunity to understand how you can improve, not a judgment about your own abilities. Your abilities are not finite. You will grow and your skills will improve with effort and planning. Knowing how to improve is the first step on that journey. Dig deep and commit to adopting a mindset focused on personal growth.
2. **REVEIW EACH EXAM:** Seek not only to understand how you could improve, but also seek to understand what you did well. Even if the professor made no comments, you can learn by understanding the difference between what you wrote and what you thought you were writing at the time.
3. **TABULATE YOUR SCORE.** Where points are noted make sure to check your professor's calculations.
4. **FOCUS ON SPECIFIC SKILLS:**
 - a. **Substance:** Make note of any substantive errors. This is particularly important if you thought you understood the material well. Understanding the mistake – and how you made it – can help you learn how to adjust your learning process so that you reduce mistakes down the road.
 - b. **Reading Comprehension:** Did you correctly read the call of the question? Did you make any factual errors? Did you follow instructions?
 - c. **Issue Spotting:** What issues did you miss? Did you prioritize the correct issues?
 - d. **Coverage:** Did you cover enough ground? How many issues did you see but not have time to cover adequately?
 - e. **Legal Analysis:** Did you directly address the call of the question? Did you adequately explain rules and sub-rules. Did you adequately apply facts to law? Did you note counterarguments where appropriate? Did you use case law where appropriate?
 - f. **Organization:** Was your answer well organized?
 - g. **Time Plan:** Did you stick to your time plan?
 - h. **Grammar & Writing:** Was your answer clear and readable?
 - i. **Professor's Style:** Did you adjust to the professor's preferred style or requirements?

5. **FOLLOW UP WITH YOUR PROFESSOR:** Meet with your professor. See if your skills diagnosis matches with the professor's. If there is a disconnect between your judgment and your professor's judgment—seek to understand why? Take the extra time to understand your professor's point of view.
6. **MAKE A PLAN:** Now that you have an idea of areas of needed improvement it is time to make a plan. Have specific objectives and benchmarks. Seek help where needed.
7. **MOVE FORWARD:** Don't let disappointment, frustration, or other negative emotions get in the way of your progress. Process these emotions and keep moving forward!