

# Frequently Asked Questions about Tests in Mr. Koelzer's Classes

## What test format is used?

There are generally 25 multiple choice questions plus a five point short answer question.

## My son/daughter is really struggling with these tests. Why is that?

The types of questions asked often require a higher level thinking skill such as analysis or application – much like the questions on high school final exams, the M-STEP, and the SAT. **To do well a student must be truly prepared (not just memorizing) and read and think carefully while taking the test.**

## How should a student prepare for these tests?

The following steps (many of which should be taken throughout the unit) are recommended.

- **Complete all assignments and take notes in class.** Try to put things in your own words as much as possible.
- **Pay attention and make corrections when we go over assignments.** Ask questions if you do not understand something.
- Near the end of a unit, start matching up assignments/notes with objectives from the objective sheet. If you are missing anything, find someone to get the information from.
- **On the day before the test we will review** the objectives and I will talk about any particular concepts or terms that are most important. **Pay attention and take notes.**
- In the days leading up to the test, go through each objective along with any related notes or assignments. **When you can correctly and thoroughly explain each objective in your own words, you are prepared for the test.**

## What can be done about a low test score?

Generally a student will have about a week to turn in corrections on the multiple choice section.

This option is made available once we have gone over the test (usually the next school day).

Corrections sheets are always available in my room and on my website. Objectives and notes can and should be used. **For each numbered item that is completely and correctly done, at least a half point will be added back to the score.**

## How much of the grade comes from tests?

For each marking period, **tests make up 50% of the grade.** Therefore, if a student does poorly on tests but still does homework consistently and does corrections when necessary, the grade should be no less than a C.

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## Why not just give a simple matching test or use term/definition multiple choice questions?

Tests in my class encourage and reward learning, understanding, higher level thinking, and problem solving skills. Students who use and try to improve these skills will be successful in this class and in future classes and tests. **Those who simply copy things word for word from the book and memorize them will not do as well** because that approach does not involve the processing of information required to actually recognize and identify concepts that are worded differently than in the text. This is great preparation for the final, as well as many other final exams and standardized tests students will encounter.

## What about students who just do poorly on tests?

Here are the most common reasons a student does poorly on these tests.

- Missing assignments/notes (**you can't study what you don't have**)
- Poor quality of work (**if notes/assignments are inaccurate or are not understood, studying them will be of little help**)
- Not paying attention in class (less likely to understand notes/assignments)
- **Excessive absences** (even if the work is made up it may not be understood)
- Memorizing rather than understanding and learning terms and concepts
- **Not reading each question and choice carefully on the test** (not taking enough time)

If a student avoids these problems and follows the steps mentioned on the previous side, test taking problems will be greatly reduced. **If the score is still not satisfactory, I am more than happy to help any student work on improving his/her study and test-taking skills.**

\*\*Important information can be found on my teacher website: [koelzer.weebly.com](http://koelzer.weebly.com).