

## Test Review: In Class or Out

Today's ideas are active ways to handle in-class test reviews in ways that engage students and minimize their dependence on you. Both ideas can be adapted to out-of-class homework or online activities, as well.

If your content requires that students master and discriminate between a set of terms and concepts, how about using a free tool (Eclipse Crosswords) to develop a practice activity for small groups? This approach also works well when you want to know what prior knowledge your students have from a prerequisite course or prior unit.

You can quickly [download Eclipse Crossword](#). In a nutshell, you enter the word list and the "clues" for each word. The software creates a number of different crossword puzzle options to choose from. You save the option you like in a format compatible with Word so it can be printed; each option includes the blank crossword puzzle, the clues, and the key. You can also output the files to a Web page, if you prefer; quite easy!

A second active learning test review idea, especially if your tests include essay questions, is to:

1. Have each student bring to class two essay questions on the content to be covered by the test.
2. Students pair up when they get to class and read their combined four questions.
3. They choose the two best ones and pass them on to another group (and receive two from another group).
4. Each student chooses one of the questions to answer in the amount of time you, the instructor, plan to give them to write the essay on the real exam.
5. Then, the pairs share their answers with each other, discussing ways to improve their answers and looking up answers if need be. Additional points are added in the partner's hand writing and all are turned into the instructor.
6. From the submitted ones, the instructor chooses the exemplary question(s) to include on the exam.
7. Depending on your philosophy of using assessments as a learning opportunity, you could give the students a copy of all of the questions that you will draw from for the exam.

Can you share other test review ideas that you have found successful?

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