

What Can You Expect in a Quiz?

A short-answer question that asks you to synthesize (integrate, weave) the material covered since the last quiz. Quizzes are also an opportunity to display your prowess in articulating your understanding of the material covered, by making connections to readings and actual events. My quizzes are hardly ever about memorization alone, although at times they may ask you to recall specific wording or information.

How Should You Prepare for a Quiz?

1. **Read.** Stay up to date with your reading. If Reading A is due on Week 2, have it read by the time you come to class.
2. **Take notes as you read.** What questions arise for you? What vexes or troubles you in that reading? What connections to other readings do you see? Are there any patterns that emerge from your readings? Is a particular argument being repeated in the readings?
3. **Find examples.** Think of situations where you might apply the ideas described in the readings. Ask yourself some simple questions: How would this apply here? What if I were to think about this situation in terms of this other idea?
4. **Ask questions in class.** Ask questions of your instructor, ask questions of your peers. Go beyond the answers both of them provide. Always be thinking about synthesizing, integrating your “bits” of knowledge.
5. **Write.** Take some time to practice putting down in writing your thoughts about a particular subject or issue. This is not the same as writing down notes. This should be informal writing that explores a particular issue and lays out your understanding of it. You may have to go back and rewrite it as you get a better understanding of the issue (from asking questions in class?).
6. **Speak.** Not just asking questions in class. Try out your understanding of situations, issues, theories, and concepts on your friends, colleagues, classmates, etc. Put main ideas from the readings in your own words and explain them to a friend.