Creating test questions in your notes increases your understanding of your course material and prepares you for your exams!

Think of all the information you learn in a class as answers to questions. Instructors often prepare lectures by thinking about the subject to be covered, determining the important questions to be asked about the material, and then writing the lecture as answers to those questions. Question Generating in your notes helps you to anticipate what questions professors’ will ask on exams.

1. Use notebooks with larger margins or create a new wider margin

5. Create questions in the left margin that correspond to your notes. Questions can relate to details or represent the themes of the lecture.

6. Detail questions involve: who, what, where, when types of questions. These questions correspond to the specifics in your notes and are especially helpful in preparing for multiple choice exams.

7. Broad questions correspond to the themes/concepts of the lecture and are helpful when preparing for essay tests. Detail questions can be combined to create one or two broader questions.

2. Take all your notes on the right side of the margin.

3. Read your notes after class looking for general themes in the lecture and how the concepts are related.

4. Add to your notes information you remember from listening to the lecture or reading in your text.

8. Closer to exam time, cover the right hand side of the page and see which questions you can answer and which need more thorough study.

At the exam, you will see that many of the questions are similar or perhaps identical to the questions that you created in your notes. This leads to better grades and less test anxiety!