Levels of Learning

New Test Prep Strategies

Part One: What Makes College Tests Harder?

Learning task

that a question addresses

Examples

from different classes

Identifiers

or words in the questions

remember

Recall fundamental knowledge – concrete facts, dates, definitions, etc.

History

When was the 4th Amendment ratified?

define, identify, label, match, name, recall, recognize, sort

understand

Give the meaning and/or significance of facts, events, and so forth. Be able to explain or summarize them.

Biology

Explain the role of DNA in protein synthesis.

discuss, explain, generalize, give examples, interpret, restate, summarize

apply

Use your understanding of a subject to address a new situation.

Math

Find the equation of the tangent line to the graph of $f(x) = x^2$, at the point (1, f(1)) apply, demonstrate, hypothesize, imitate, predict, relate, show, solve, use

analyze

evaluate

create

For more about these levels, visit us at **utexas.edu/ugs/slc** and look for the video on self-testing.



There are different layers of learning

Understand

Apply

Ingredients

CAKE

Cooking spray

7.33 ounces whole-wheat pastry flour (about 1 3/4 cups)

3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa

1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder

1/2 teaspoon table salt

1/2 teaspoon baking soda

1 1/4 cups granulated sugar

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Understand

How to Make It

Step 1

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Step 2

Prepare cake: Coat 2 (9-inch) round cake pans with cooking spray; line bottoms of pans with parchment paper. Coat paper with cooking spray; set aside.

Step 3

Weigh or lightly spoon flour into dry measuring cups; level with a knife. Place flour, cocoa, baking powder, salt, and baking soda in a bowl; whisk to combine.

Apply

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Apply

Why do these ingredients react together to form a cake?

Could you bake the cake at a higher temperature for less time, and get the same result?

What happens when you mix nuts into your batter?

When was the 4th amendment ratified?

Understand

Discuss the conditions surrounding the ratification of the 4th amendment.

Apply

How did the ratification of the 4th amendment change the political landscape?

What is protein synthesis?

synthesis.

Explain the role of DNA in protein

Show what happens to a cell if protein synthesis is disrupted.

What is a tangent line?

What is the formula for finding the equation of a tangent line?

Find the equation of the tangent line to the graph of $f(x) = x^2$ at the point (1, f(1)).

I <u>remember</u> what levels of learning are.

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I <u>understand</u> how they differ from each other.

I remember what levels of learning are.

I understand how they differ from each other.

But how can I <u>apply</u> them to how I study for tests?

Study Strategies

- Active Reading
 - Highlight. Make notes. Connect ideas together in flowcharts or concept maps.
- Participate in Class!
 - Discussions involve forming an argument which helps you synthesize information and practice applying it
- Form a study group
 - Practice explaining the material to each other - repeating it out loud in one story will help you find the gaps in your understanding

- Practice Tests

- Reach out to your professor for advice and know how you'll be tested.
- Think about the type of test and adjust your practice test carefully.
- Go beyond Quizlet and flashcards. Find tests that force you to practice explaining the relationship between content
- For an essay test come up with sample prompts and brainstorm your outline.
- For a problem-solving test work through problems that resemble your class assignments

And studying can be a piece of cake!



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Reach out to us at the Sanger Learning Center!

