PRACTICAL AND FINANCIAL LITERACY

Identifying Knowledge Gaps

Difficulty level: Intermediate

Practical and Financial Literacy

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Overview of the concept

This is how you find the weak spots in what you know before a test, so your study time goes to the topics that actually need it instead of the ones you already know. Most students waste hours restudying what they already know and never touch the topic that will actually cost them marks. Finding your gaps first means every hour of study makes you stronger where it counts, and you walk into the test knowing exactly what you fixed.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q You take a 10-question practice test and score 7. You missed questions 3, 6, and 9. What are your gaps?

SOLUTION

This is a find-the-gap question, and the one rule to remember is that a gap is a topic you got wrong, not a score to feel bad about.

The three missed questions are 3, 6, and 9, so the gaps are the topics those questions tested.

Study those topics, and do not restudy the seven you already got right. A practice test is a map: it tells you where to go next.

EXAMPLE 2

Q You explain photosynthesis aloud without notes and stall at 'what happens in the leaf?' What is your gap?

SOLUTION

Explaining aloud is the honest test, because you cannot hide behind a page you have read.

You flowed until the leaf, then stalled, so the gap is exactly there: the leaf's role in photosynthesis.

Study the leaf's role, then explain it again from the start. If it flows this time, the gap is closed.

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Practice questions

1 You take a 10-question practice test and score 6. You missed questions 1, 4, 7, and 10. What are your gaps?

- **A** The topics of questions 2, 5, and 8
- **B** The topics of questions 3, 6, and 9
- **C** The topics of questions 1, 4, 7, and 10
- **D** All ten topics equally

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2 You take a 10-question practice test and score 8. You missed questions 2 and 5. What should you NOT spend your study time on?

- **A** The topics of questions 2 and 5
- **B** The topics of the 8 questions you got right
- **C** The topics of questions 8 and 10
- **D** Every topic on the test

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3 How does a practice test reveal gaps?

- **A** Its missed questions point to the topics you have not mastered
- **B** It tells you your total score only
- **C** It shows which questions were the easiest
- **D** It proves you studied enough

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4 You reread your notes three times and feel you know the topic, but you cannot explain it aloud without notes. What does that show?

- **A** You have mastered the topic
- **B** You need to reread your notes once more
- **C** Your notes are missing pages
- **D** The gap is still there: rereading is not the same as knowing it

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5 You explain photosynthesis aloud and stall at 'where does the energy come from?' What is your gap?

- **A** How water gets into the air
- **B** The Sun's role in photosynthesis
- **C** The names of the planets
- **D** How to spell photosynthesis

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You explain the water cycle aloud and stall at 'how does water get into the air?' What should you do next?

- A. Study evaporation, then explain the water cycle again from the start
- B. Reread your notes three times
- C. Move on to a new topic
- D. Retake the practice test on the water cycle

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What does stalling while explaining a topic show?

- A. That you have mastered the topic
- B. That your notes are complete
- C. A gap in your understanding at that point
- D. That the topic is too hard to learn

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8 You explain a topic aloud and it flows without stalling. What does that suggest?

- **A** That you have a gap in the topic
- **B** That the topic is probably secure for now
- **C** That you should stop studying it forever
- **D** That rereading is the best way to learn

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9 What is a knowledge gap?

- **A** A question you got right
- **B** A topic you explained easily
- **C** A page missing from your notes
- **D** Something you do not yet know or cannot yet do

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What should you do after finding a gap?

A Study that topic, then retest yourself on it

B Reread your notes three more times

C Move on and never revisit it

D Take a different test on another topic

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ANSWER KEY

1. The topics of questions 1, 4, 7, and 10
2. The topics of the 8 questions you got right
3. Its missed questions point to the topics you have not mastered
4. The gap is still there: rereading is not the same as knowing it
5. The Sun's role in photosynthesis
6. Study evaporation, then explain the water cycle again from the start
7. A gap in your understanding at that point
8. That the topic is probably secure for now
9. Something you do not yet know or cannot yet do
10. Study that topic, then retest yourself on it

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