

Levels of Questions Model

Readers comprehend a book on a literal level when they can identify “the facts.” Understanding is further apparent when readers can connect ideas by interpreting information. It is at this and the ascending levels that professors will expect students to think and write. After comprehending the text, a student should combine the information from the text with the lecture notes and other course readings. By doing this, a student can prepare for an exam.

To construct a study guide, students should predict the kinds of question professors might ask and organize the information they might use in their answers in advance. It is imperative that your study plan goes beyond simply memorizing facts. You need to raise the level of questioning and then synthesize information from all course materials to practice answering the questions.

Here’s how: For each course, predict questions using the table below. Often, the first three levels help you to refresh the facts and information you will need to construct the answers for the second three levels.

Level of Question	Purpose <i>Tests your ability to:</i>	Examples
Literal ↓	Identify facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List... • Define...
Interpretive ↓	Determine relationships between ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe... • Classify...
Application ↓	Solve problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate... • Illustrate...
Analysis ↓	Categorize information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare... • Distinguish...
Evaluation ↓	Make INFORMED opinions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defend... • Argue...
Synthesis	Combine ideas to make a prediction or conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate... • Construct...