



Using Your Notes to Study

Do you find yourself taking careful notes in class, but never really looking at them again? Do you re-read your notes before a test but find that they don't help you learn very much? Notes from class can be a valuable study tool if used effectively. Try the steps below to study with your notes after class. An example of what this strategy looks like is on the back of this handout.

Leave Room

When taking notes in class, leave space on the **left**, on the **right**, and at the **bottom** of each page. You will use this space to turn your notes into a study tool later.

Review

After class, go back through your notes to fill in any gaps in knowledge or understanding. Did your professor note an important fact that you didn't quite catch? Did he or she introduce a concept that you don't understand? Use resources such as classmates, the textbook, and TA office hours to fill in these gaps, and write your new insights on the **right** side of the page.

Self-Quiz

One of the most effective ways to prepare for an exam is to quiz yourself over the material. On the **left** side of each page of your notes, write two or three self-quizzing questions over the concepts covered in class. Use these questions to test your knowledge and practice for upcoming exams.

Summarize

At the **bottom** of each page of notes, write a brief summary of the concepts covered in class. Summarizing will help you zero in on the most important ideas, and it is a good way to prepare for exams.

Practice!

On the back of this handout, you will see a sample set of notes over the agricultural revolution. Follow the steps outlined above to practice using these notes to study.

World History Notes: “Agricultural Revolution”

Self-Quiz

Review

I. Humans (15,000 years ago) were hunters and foragers, foraging fruits, nuts, wild grains and grasses

Hunting allowed for a more protein-rich diet (if you could find a target)

One of the best hunting gigs was fishing

This is why many civilizations sprung up on the ocean’s coasts

Fish were A) Abundant and B) unlikely to eat you

We think of the lives of foragers as nasty, brutish and short

But fossil evidence show their bones and teeth were healthier than those of agriculturalists

Anthropologists say that foragers spend less time working and more time on art, music, and ????

II. Cultivation of Crops

Arose independently over millennia all over the world: Africa, China, and the Americas (Rice in Southeast Asia, maize in Mexico, potatoes in ????, wheat in the Fertile Crescent, yams in West Africa)

People world-wide, independently gave up foraging for agriculture
Since everyone did this, it must be a good choice, right?

III. Pros and Cons of Agriculture

Advantages:

1. Controllable food supply (except for droughts, floods) - hearty crops increase chance of reliable food (not starving)
2. You can grow a food surplus (especially with grains) - making cities and specialization of labor possible. In foraging, 1000 calories used to acquire 1000 calories of food. So, impossible to form large population centers. Surplus can support other jobs, e.g. trades people who can create better farm equipment to create more food.
3. ????

Disadvantages:

1. As population grows, you have to radically change environment (planting on large scale). Some would say that large cities are not beneficial to the planet (environment) or people (but what about technology/internet?)
2. Can have non-ideal societal structure in agriculture societies? How so/why???

Summary: