

IMPLEMENTING FEEDBACK

Reflecting on feedback and identifying points of improvement is a good way to close the loop on an assessment and improve the quality of your future work.

Forms of Feedback

Each form of feedback has a role to play. Take note of each item to gauge what you have done well and what you could improve on:

- *Grade/mark*: a numeric standard that reflects overall quality of your work.
- *Marking rubric*: a guide that lists the criteria you are assessed on and your level of achievement in each area.
- *Inline/bubble comments*: detailed annotations on specific text or sections within your submitted document.
- *Summary comments*: a final comment on your work as a whole.

Feedback for Multi-choice and Short Answer Tests

Feedback on these assessments can be minimal and make evaluation challenging. Here are some things to consider to improve your (a) test-taking technique; and (b) understanding of the content.

- **Timing** - Think about how you distribute your time across multiple sections.
- **Ordering** - Did you feel more confident with some topics than others? Answer test questions in the order that suits you, starting with the ones you are most confident about.
- **Misreading questions** - Watch out for nuanced phrasing (such as the use of double negatives). Take note of all information provided in the question.

- **Key concepts** - Did you have a genuine understanding of key concepts and how they apply to multiple contexts? Tests assess more than just your ability to reproduce information. They test your ability to understand and apply concepts to different scenarios.

Common Feedback for Essays, Reports & Written Assignments

- *Presentation and expression*: sound grammar, syntax, and paragraph structure.
- *Argument*: a clear thesis and position in response to the question.
- *Reasoning*: a justification as to why you support this position, with relevant examples.
- *Analysis*: evaluation of the evidence and explanation of how the examples relate to the assignment question.
- *Critical understanding*: ability to discuss key concepts and apply them to the analysis.
- *Research*: use of appropriate secondary sources and discussion of their significance to the topic.
- *Reference*: acknowledgement of sources using a consistent style of referencing.

TIP

Take stock of each form of feedback when reviewing your work. Marking rubrics and inline annotations isolate specific aspects that your marker wants you to focus on, while grades and summary comments offer a broad perspective of your work as a whole. Each brings something unique and valuable to the reflective process.

TIP

It's important to keep in mind the things you did well. Taking note of your strengths is a key part of the feedback process. It builds your confidence and identifies the things you need to retain for future assignments. Pay close attention to your marking rubric and marker's comments for areas where you performed well.

Understanding your feedback

- *Connect the dots across units:* Take note of any recurring points of feedback highlighted by multiple markers. Knowing what you need to improve on is the first step.
- *Discuss with someone else:* Discuss the feedback with a classmate. Book a consultation with STUDYSmarter to help unpack your feedback.
- *Seek clarification:* If you do not understand why your marker has raised a point, it is best to contact them and find out. Use class time to ask about collective points of feedback that were common to the class.
- *Make use of the rubric:* Look at where your work has been rated across the rubric items, and locate areas where there is room for improvement.
- *Know what you've done well:* Note any positive comments or areas in the marking rubric where you have excelled. Build on these strengths in your next assignment.

Acting on Feedback

- *Build an improvement mindset:* Re-frame mistakes or weak points identified in your work as opportunities for further development and learning.
- *Pause to reflect and 'mark' your own work:* Use your markers' comments and assignment rubric as a guide to self-assess your draft.
- *Revise your marked assignment:* After identifying an area of improvement, try rewriting a paragraph or section of an assignment, attending to the marker's concerns. Reading feedback helps to identify an issue, but applying the feedback directly can help consolidate this material for future work.
- *Feed forward for the next assessment:* It can be easy to forget the lessons of the past and repeat the same mistakes. When starting your next assignment, bring up your previous assignment as a point of reference. This will refresh your memory and feed forward the previous comments to your next bit of work.

TIP

When reviewing feedback, write down an Action Plan of points you need to follow up on. Writing it as an action list can help you to think actively about your work, organise ways to apply the feedback, and help memorise the things you need to feed forward for future assessments.

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