

M S T S

# ESTIMATING YOUR API TEST SCORE

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ELIMINATE 8 WEEKS OF FRETTING WHILE  
YOU WAIT FOR YOUR API EXAM SCORE!



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**ESTIMATING YOUR TEST SCORE – THE PROCESS**

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Waiting for the test results is “nerve-racking”! Over the years I’ve learned that API examinees do a poor job of estimating their final score. I’ve seen inspectors fret and lose sleep only to find out that they score 92%.

How about a reliable method for estimating your API exam scores? This will lessen the fretting as you wait 8 weeks for your API results. The following is a proven method for estimating your score. Give it a try.

- 1) If you don’t know the answer to an exam question, you will place a specific mark in the left-hand margin of the test booklet. (Yes, you can mark the test booklets.)

The marking system is based on how many wrong answers you were able to eliminate for a specific question. Mark the exam questions as follows:

- a. **No mark required** – You knew that answer (Hopefully you’ll have lots of these!)
  - b. **“2”** – Guessed between 2 answers. You were able to eliminate 2 wrong answers.
  - c. **“3”** – Guessed between 3 answers. You were able to eliminate 1 wrong answer.
  - d. **“4”** – Didn’t have a clue! You were not able to eliminate any answers.
- 2) At the conclusion of each test booklet, count the exact number of “2’s”, “3’s”, and “4’s”. Record these numbers in a Code book or some paper that you will take out of the exam.
  - 3) Complete the following table.
    - a. In the **Total Number** column, input the total # number of questions you marked for each row. For example if you had six questions where you didn’t have a clue which answer was correct (*1 out of 4 guess*), input 6 for the **Total Number** in the **1 out of 4** row.
    - b. For each row, determine the **Number Correct** by multiplying your **Total Number** by the **Probability**.
    - c. Add the 4 numbers in the **Number Correct** column to determine the **Total Number Correct**.
    - d. Calculate your final score (in %). **Final score = Total Number Correct / 1.5**

	<i>Total Number</i>	<i>Probability</i>	<i>Number Correct</i>
<i>Knew Answer</i>		<b>1.0</b>	
<b>2</b> ( <i>1 out of 2</i> )		<b>.5</b>	
<b>3</b> ( <i>1 out of 3</i> )		<b>.33</b>	
<b>4</b> ( <i>1 out of 4</i> )		<b>.25</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>---</b>	

**Final Score (%) = \_\_\_\_\_ / 1.5 = \_\_\_\_\_**

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**ESTIMATING YOUR TEST SCORE – AN ILLUSTRATION**

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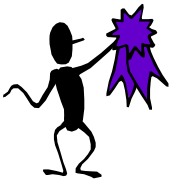
Here's an illustration of how to use this estimating method. Suppose during the API exam you marked test questions as follows:

- a. 2's (1 out of 2) – 32 questions
  - b. 3's (1 out of 3) – 12 questions
  - c. 4's (1 out of 4) – 6 questions
- } **Total Unknown**
- d. Knows (*knew the answer*) – 100 questions. Determine this by subtracting **Total Unknown** from 150 (the total number of test questions).

	<i>Total Number</i>	<i>Probability</i>	<i>Number Correct</i>
<i>Knew Answer</i>	100	1.0	100
2 (1 out of 2)	32	.5	16
3 (1 out of 3)	12	.33	4
4 (1 out of 4)	6	.25	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>121.5</b>

*You may want to reduce this number by 3-8 points. This will account for some "Red-Faced" mistakes.*

$$\text{Final Score (\%)} = 121.5 / 1.5 = 81\%$$



*An 81% - this is a good score! And there certainly is no need to worry about the test results for the next 8 weeks!*