

Are you a deep learner ? Test your Learning Strategy

For each of the 20 statements below mark the number that indicates how well the statement fits you:

- 5: Almost always true
- 4: Often true
- 3: True approximately half the time
- 2: Sometimes true
- 1: Hardly ever/never true

1	I try to relate what I learn in one subject to what I have learned in other subjects	1	2	3	4	5
2	I have to learn certain things by heart by repeating over and over until it sticks					
3	I limit my studies to whatever is specified because I find it unnecessary to do extra work					
4	I find almost any topic interesting once I get deeper into it					
5	I think it best to accept ideas and statements from my teachers and I hardly ever question what they say					
6	I find it personally satisfying to study					
7	I think that it is a waste of time to browse around, therefore I only study what is in the course description and the course overviews					
8	I have chosen my study because it will lead to a good job rather than because I find it interesting					
9	While I am studying I often think of situations from real life that relate to what I am studying					
10	I try to relate new material I am reading to what I already know about the topic under study					
11	I spend a good deal of leisure time finding out more about interesting topics which have been discussed in class					
12	I try to understand the topic I am studying, even if it may be tough in the beginning					
13	I am aware that the teachers know more than me, therefore I focus on what they say, rather than on my own knowledge and/or opinion					
14	I prefer subjects with much factual knowledge rather than theoretical subjects					
15	The teachers should not expect students to spend time studying something that will not be examined					
16	I read and summarise the proposed literature and include the summary as part of my material about the topic					
17	I learn best from teachers who make good PowerPoint presentations and have a neat order on the blackboard					
18	I get more and more engaged and involved in my study the more I work with it					
19	I am in the university because I believe that a university education is the road to a good job					
20	I have a need for working with a topic long enough to be able to formulate my own view before I am satisfied					

Now please enter your scores for each statement into the white field in the corresponding line in the table below and sum the two columns to give you two overall scores, one for Surface Learning and one for Deep Learning. A sum greater than 30 indicates a preferred learning strategy. Scoring low on both strategies simply means that you do not have a dominant learning strategy.

Scoring table

Statement no.	Surface Learning	Deep Learning
1		
2		
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SUM =		

Reflection

Based on the description of the two learning strategies given in the table below please consider the following questions:

- Does your test result compare to your own self perception as a learner?
- Do you feel that your learning strategy is appropriate for your university study?
- Are there any elements in your learning strategy you would like to change?
- If so: What do you plan to do to change what you find non-appropriate?
- How might your team members assist you to achieve an appropriate learning strategy?
- How might you assist your team members in achieving an appropriate learning strategy?

Deep Learning	Surface Learning
Tries to understand	Tries to accomodate requirements
Focus on the message, i.e. the argument or the problem solution	Focus on the symbol, i.e. the words of the text or the formula
Relates new knowledge to known knowledge	Remembers unrelated details
Compares and contrasts knowledge from different subjects	Remembers information for the exam
Relates theoretical ideas to real life experiences	Does not differentiate between factual knowledge and arguments/opinions
Organises and structures the contents of the study into a coherent 'world view'	Does not differentiate between general principles and examples

You can find a more detailed on-line test of learning strategy and more information about learning here: http://www.geocities.com/gprss_edu/spq.htm

If you are interested in more material on learning and teaching this link is useful:
<http://www.learningandteaching.info/>

The test was prepared by Mona Dahms with inspiration from:

Hans Peter Christensen (2005): "*Værktøj til at bestemme dyb og overfladisk læring*" (Eng. *Tools for determining deep and surface learning*), in IPN-Nyt, nr. 17, 2005 (in Danish only).