

# How to calculate your grade in ANY class...

## STEP 1:

You need to figure out how much each part of your grade is worth. For example, in one of my classes the grade breakdown is as follows:

quizzes	homework	Exam 1	Exam 2	Exam 3	final
10%	15%	15%	15%	15%	30%

## STEP 2:

You need to figure out what your grades look like. You can figure out your quiz percentage for example by adding up your points from all the quizzes and dividing by the total number of points.

*fictional student "Lola"*

Lola's quiz scores so far are: 3/10, 5/8, 7/10, 10/10 so Lola's average is:

$$\frac{3 + 5 + 7 + 10}{10 + 8 + 10 + 10} = \frac{25}{38} \approx .658 \text{ or } 65.8\%$$

To find your percentage on an exam you can multiply by 100 and divide by the total points

the exam was worth. For example  $\frac{41}{54} = \frac{41 * 100}{54} \% \approx 76\%$  for Lola's exam 1

Once you have calculated the components of your grade you can proceed to STEP 3.

Let's assume that Lola's grades come out to be:

quizzes	homework	Exam 1	Exam 2	Exam 3	final
65.8%	83%	76%	52%	??	??

## STEP 3:

If you already know all your grades (because it is the end of the quarter) then the calculations from here is straightforward. We pretend that there are 100 points total for the class. If you got all 100 you would have 100% for your overall grade.

For my class as listed above this means out of those 100 points, 10 are from quizzes, 15 are from homework, 15 for the first midterm, etc.

Of the 10 possible points for quizzes, Lola only got 65.8% of them. She got  $10(65.8\%) = 10(.658) = 6.58$  points

So to find Lola's overall points we have:

$$\underbrace{10(.658) + 15(.83) + 15(.76) + 15(.52)}_{38.23 \text{ points so far}} + 15(\text{exam three}) + 30(\text{final})$$

If Lola didn't take the last midterm or the final she would end up with a 38.23% in the class. If you already knew your exam 3 and final score then you could finish right now. Lola, however, has more work to do.

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### STEP 4:

It is time to start making some realistic assumptions, and set realistic goals for the rest of the grades in the class. We will assume that the overall quiz and homework scores are not going to change much in the next few weeks. So let's look at the extremes of the exam scores. Even if Lola got 100% on exam 3 and the final her overall grade would be:

$$10(.658) + 15(.83) + 15(.76) + 15(.52) + 15(.100) + 30(.100) = 83.23$$

*Hypothetically Speaking...*

This means that the BEST grade Lola can hope for is a B. However, if she only got a 76% and 56% respectively on the first two midterms, it is more realistic to say she might study and get an 80% on the third midterm. *If she got an 80% on exam 3, what grade would she need to get on the final to get a 70% overall in the class?*

$$\underbrace{10(.658) + 15(.83) + 15(.76) + 15(.52) + 15(.80)}_{50.23} + 30(x) = 70$$

$$50.23 + 30x = 70$$

$$30x = 70 - 50.23$$

$$x = \frac{19.77}{30} \approx .659 \text{ or } 65.9\%$$

Not so bad, Lola can totally pass this class.

*How would this change if Lola didn't do so well on the third midterm? Let's say she got a 50%*

$$\underbrace{10(.658) + 15(.83) + 15(.76) + 15(.52) + 15(.50)}_{45.73} + 30(x) = 70$$

$$45.73 + 30x = 70$$

$$30x = 70 - 45.73$$

$$x = \frac{24.27}{30} \approx .809 \text{ or } 80.9\%$$

What do you think? If she only knew 76% of the first third of the class, and only 56% of the middle part of the class, and only 50% of the end part... can she pull off an 80% on the cumulative final?

I hope you found this helpful, but if you still want to meet with me about your particular situation and your individual grades just let me know.