How do I use “prior test” knowledge to improve responses in tests

**Background**
- I wanted to improve and encourage the long-term learning of my students, particularly my low achieving students.
- To improve self-esteem

**Methods**
- Students were given a copy of the test a week prior to the actual class test.
- Students had to research the answers.
- A week later completed the test

**Results**
What the students thought...

- Stays in my head for longer: 31%
- Easier to learn: 13%
- Saves time: 13%
- More confident: 6%
- Hard work: 6%
- Summarises what I need to know: 31%

**Student comments:**

**H/L student:**
- “It’s ok. But you won’t know what will be on the Leaving Cert”
- “Helps me to learn better if I know what is coming up”

**O/L student:**
- “I like this form of assessment. It helps stay in my head for longer”
- “Gives you confidence that stays with you for future tests”

**Conclusions**
- Grades would say that the students benefited from this form of assessment.
- Students were more enthusiastic about doing well when given the test beforehand.
- Low achieving students liked this form of assessment as they found it easier to pick out the key points when given the question.