The Test is Yet to Come!

Presented by Student Academic Success Center

“Navigation to Graduation”
Test Taking Tips

♦ Preparing for the Test

♦ During the Test

♦ Post Test

♦ Types of Tests
  ♦ Multiple Choice
  ♦ True - False
  ♦ Essay

“Navigation to Graduation”
Preparing for a Test
Preparing for a Test?

How do you prepare for a test?

“I go to tutoring often.”

“I study with a group of people.”

“I start preparing as soon as I receive the information.”
Preparing for a Test

“I start preparing as soon as I receive the information.”

“I study the night before.”

“I don’t prepare for exams.”

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Tutorials

✓ Identify all tutoring labs on campus along with their hours of operation.

✓ Go to tutoring weekly.

✓ Ask your instructor to clarify concepts and/or problems.

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Study Groups

✓ Limit the study group to 3-4 people.

✓ Study with people who are knowledgeable about the subject matter.

✓ Go to review sessions hosted by instructor, tutoring center, or classmates.

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Early Start

Budget your time, make sure you have sufficient time to study.

Put the main ideas/information/formulas onto a sheet that can be quickly reviewed many times.

Review your notes after every class when possible. If there is little time between classes, review nightly to better retain information.
Preparing for a Test

Cramming for Exams

✓ Don’t try to pull an all nighter!
✓ Results are typically not favorable.
✓ Creates anxiety.

But, if you are forced to cram……..
Preparing for a Test

Find out what you really need to study.

Focus on the important points and concepts in your notes.

Identify key topics.

Look at the beginnings and ends of textbook chapters.

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- Review your flashcards or cramming notes.
- Contemplate possible essay questions (if applicable) and how you would answer them.
- Test yourself.
- Get some sleep!
- Eat energy producing food like banana and apples. Avoid caffeine and sugary drinks that make you crash.
Preparing for a Test

❖ Other Preparation Tips........

❖ Don’t change your daily routine.

❖ Go over material from practice tests, homework, sample problems, review material, the textbook and class notes.

❖ Arrive 10 minutes before the start of the test.

❖ Set your alarm clock.
Test Taking Tips

Test Time!!!!!!
Cardinal Rule

◆ Read all instructions carefully
◆ Read all test questions carefully
◆ Answer only what is being asked; do not read into a question anything beyond what is there
◆ Pace yourself
◆ Make sure you answer all of the questions on the exam
Test Taking Tips

♦ Keep a positive attitude throughout the whole test and stay relaxed.

♦ Do a quick survey of the test to assess the point values for each problem.

♦ Do the easiest problems first. Don’t stay on any one problem too long.
Test Taking Tips

- Do the problems with the greatest point values first!
- Pace yourself, don’t rush!
- Ask the instructor for clarification if you don’t understand.
- Write legibly!
Test Taking Tips

- Always read the whole question carefully.
- Don’t worry if others finish before.
- Pace yourself, don’t rush.
- Double check to make sure that you put your name on the test.
- If you don’t know an answer, skip it.
- Dress in layers and bring all of your supplies.
After the test.....

Don’t beat yourself up if you feel you did not perform well.

Review returned tests to determine grading accuracy.

Review retuned tests to understand items you did not understand previously.
Test Taking Tips

♦ Re-evaluate your preparation for the exam. Was it adequate?

♦ If you did not perform well, ask if there are any extra-credit opportunities available.

♦ Save the test as study material for future cumulative tests.
Test Taking Tips

Types of Tests

- Multiple Choice
- True - False
- Essay
Absolutes

Always
All
Never
Only
Every
Forever

Wrong !!!

Usually
Frequently
Often
Seldom

Right !!!!!!
Test Taking Tips

Multiple Choice Tests
Test Taking Tips

- Read the question before you look at the answer.
- Come up with the answer in your head before looking at the possible answers.
- Eliminate answers you know are wrong.
- If there is no penalty for guessing, always take an educated guess and select an answer.
Test Taking Tips

♦ Don’t keep changing your answers, usually your first choice is the right one, unless you misread the question.

♦ In “all of the above” and “None of the above” choices, if you are certain one of the statements is true don’t choose “None of the above” or one of the statements are false don’t choose “All of the above”.

Test Taking Tips

♦ A positive choice is more likely to be true than a negative one.

♦ Usually the correct answer is the choice with the most information.

♦ Sometimes answers are found within the test.
Test Taking Tips

True – False Tests
Test Taking Tips

♦ Usually there are more true answers than false on most tests.

♦ If there is no guessing penalty, then guess. You have a 50% chance of getting the right answer.

♦ Read through each statement carefully, and pay attention to the qualifiers and keywords.
Test Taking Tips

- Qualifiers like “never, always, and every mean that the statement must be true all of the time. Usually these type of qualifiers lead to a false answer.
Test Taking Tips

♦ Qualifiers like “usually, sometimes, and generally” mean that if the statement can be considered true or false depending on the circumstances. Usually these type of qualifiers lead to an answer that is true.

True or False: Usually when a student prepares for a test he/she will receive a passing grade.
Test Taking Tips

♦ If any part of the question is false, then the entire statement is false.

♦ If part of the statement is true, it does not necessarily make the entire statement true.
Test Taking Tips

Essay Tests
Test Taking Tips

- Read the directions carefully. Pay close attention to whether you are supposed to answer all the essays or only a specified amount (e.g. “Answer 2 out of 3 questions”).
Test Taking Tips

♦ Make sure that you understand what the question is asking you.

♦ Budget your time, don’t spend the entire test time on one essay.
Test Taking Tips

♦ Make a quick outline of points you want to make.

♦ Make sure you write down everything that is asked of you and more!

♦ Focus on one main idea per paragraph.
Test Taking Tips

♦ If the question is asking facts, don’t give your opinion.

♦ If you are not sure of the exact date or number, use approximations.

♦ If you have time left, proofread, proofread and proofread again.
Test Taking Tips

- Turn off your cell phone!
- Be honest with yourself!
- Use flashcards.
- Buy your books.
Test Taking Tips

✧ Review or rewrite your notes.

✧ Try not to procrastinate.

✧ Break your assignments down into parts.

✧ It is okay to ask for help.
Test Taking Tips

Reference

TestTakingTips.com
Thank you!!