DIFFERENT TESTS?

DIFFERENT STUDY TECHNIQUES

DIFFERENT TEST-TAKING STRATEGIES

“Your grade in this course will include tests and quizzes.”

Be an active student, not a passive student!

Study SMART, not hard:
✓ Attend all classes – what does your professor think is important
✓ First and last 5 minutes of class are often most important, e.g. “By the way, students…”
✓ Sit in front row – see & hear professor, fewer distractions, write questions in text and notes
✓ Make up practice test questions & study these pre-tests
✓ Retake old tests and quizzes – correct errors, look for patterns

Strategize for learning
✓ Develop and maintain a schedule that reflects your priorities: be realistic, honest, and persistent. Use the LC’s TO-DO lists, weekly calendar and semester log
✓ Learn your physical and mental peaks & valleys: take advantage of your best times
✓ Study in small time increments and when you are alert, comfortable and rested
✓ Plan for 5-6 contacts with information to move from short-term memory and store in long-term memory
✓ Study in natural or bright light for better concentration and to reduce depression
✓ Develop a winning attitude, i.e., that you will spend as much time as you need to succeed

Different kind of tests = different kinds of preparation

Objective

Essay

Lab Practical

Open Book

Before every test:
✓ Prepare mentally, physically, & psychologically
✓ Train by giving up bad habits
✓ Know type of exam and content (all semester vs. last unit only)
✓ Organize your notebook with all handouts, study outlines, rewritten notes
✓ Prepare answers for all review questions
✓ Outline, list or map what you consistently forget or do not understand
✓ Review your professor’s pet topics, especially old tests and quizzes
✓ Create a checklist of what to take to exam, i.e. formula or vocabulary cards, fact sheet, calculator, pens/pencils/erasers
✓ Study as you will be tested: practice, practice, practice
What kind of test will it be?
Employ different study techniques depending on type of test

**Objective** (short answer, multiple-choice, T/F)
Emphasis on detail: terms – brainstorm all possible related questions
   - Names: group names with terms or theories
   - Facts: group with names or theories
   - Memory techniques: acronyms (HOMES), mnemonic: Minerva’s Violet Eyes
   - Make...; rhymes & jingles, link: blended images, 5 w’s: who, what, when, where, why, how, flash cards & matching: oral practice, recitation, verbatim
   - Memorization with repetition, privacy, quiet, no interruptions, physical peak time, involve senses, don’t be hungry (use coffee or gum), alternate concentrating & relaxing, keep a positive attitude

**Essay** emphasizes themes & broad ideas
Look for key words that tell you what kind of information the prof is looking for
Review EN-101 notes: descriptive, persuasive, compare/contrast, research
   - Compare/contrast: how alike, how different
   - Describe/discuss/explain: broad with detail
   - Outline, mapping (combines left & right brain techniques, begin with a word or picture pertaining to topic, draw branching lines for subtopics with one key word

**Open Book:** organize notes by topic, date & number all pages & cross-reference lecture notes to text, prepare study guide

Different kinds of tests = different kinds of test-taking strategies

**Objective**

**Essay**

**Math/Physics**

**Open Book**

**During the exam:**
✓ Be physically and psychologically prepared
✓ Use relaxation techniques: jaw, shoulder, temple massage, roll neck, positive thoughts, good posture
✓ Shower and wear fresh & comfortable clothes for improved self-image
✓ Review your checklist and bring what’s needed, suggested, allowed
✓ Sit in front row and stay until end of exam period: you will overhear prof’s remarks, hints, answers to questions, last minute instructions
✓ Establish time priorities appropriate to point distribution
✓ Read all directions – know what is being asked and answer only what you are asked
✓ Write name on all sheets
✓ Check backs & fronts so no questions (or sides) are missed
**Objective Tests:** multiple choice, matching, T/F, short answer
Skip & mark questions you are unsure of to make the best use of limited time
Answer those you know first to help your thinking “flow” and build your confidence
Skip a question and return to it later; subsequent questions may jog your memory

Multiple Choice: read question stem and **do not look at answers**
Formulate the elements of the correct answer in your own words then check each choice against your own to find the best match
Free associate: brainstorm
If you have no idea: eliminate obvious wrong answers & select longest option
Read all options: even wrong answers may be partly right
Make sure your answer is grammatically correct
If you must guess, always choose the same letter

**True or False**
50/50 chance, watch for absolutes: always, never, none vs. some, often, rarely
Check each part of statement to see if true or false
If all else fails, choose false

**Matching and Short Answer**
Answer those you know first, free associate, use process of elimination for those you’re not sure of, look elsewhere in test for clues to answers

**Important:** ALL types of objective tests
When you are through, go back and answer those you may have skipped.
Do not change answers unless you see a careless error; your first response is usually the best.

**Essay tests:**
Read question carefully to see what you are being asked
Less is more; write short paragraphs with focused content
Write neatly
Plan your time:
50 minutes to write an essay
  - 10: think and organize
  - 25: write
  - 15: revise & proofread (check content, general vocabulary, spelling, etc.)