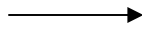
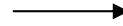


DIFFERENT TESTS?



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.)