

Strategies for Test-Taking

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Begin studying for your first test on the very first day of class.

There's no substitute for really "owning" the information, and the longer you work with it, the more you'll remember and be able to do with it.

Know exactly what's covered on the test.

If you don't know what will be on the test, ASK!

Don't try to cram the night before a test.

Little "crammed" information is retained the next day—thorough review is better!

Look over every part of the test as soon as you receive it.

You'll be able to proceed systematically and budget your time if you know where the harder parts of the test are.

Read the directions for each section carefully.

If you know exactly what you're supposed to do, you'll get it down faster.

Do the easiest, "sure-thing" questions first.

The easy questions will help boost your confidence!

Attack the hardest parts of the test next.

You can return to the hard parts later if you start to get bogged down.

Complete the rest of the test before starting a second run-through.

It's easy to forget something when you're under time pressure.

Put an answer down for everything.

Sometimes you'll receive credit for being on the right track.

Read questions and fill-ins carefully.

Test items usually contain essential and helpful clues.

Write helpful notes in the margins, like equations, rules, diagrams, etc.

This reduces dependence on your memory.

Do calculations or analysis step-by-step, internally reciting each part of the protocol.

You'll often catch simple errors right away.

Show your work where it's appropriate.

Sometimes the steps leading to an answer are just as important as the final result.

When in doubt, go with your first impression.

You can change your answer later upon more reflection.

With multiple-choice questions, eliminate obviously wrong options and choose among the remaining ones.

Your odds are better!

Use the test as a source of hints.

Information in one section can help you in another.

Check each section of the test before you hand it in.

Often you'll catch simple mistakes or better answers will occur to you after you've seen the whole test.

Respond to any extra credit opportunities your professor offers *unless* you haven't finished the rest of the test.

Take advantage of every honest opportunity to succeed.

Don't leave the room until you're sure you've done the best you can in the time you have.

While "second-guessing" yourself can undo good choices, sometimes better answers can occur to you when you're not focused on their questions.

Relax!

You'll actually do better if you're not worrying about the outcome!