Test-taking Strategies

These strategies can help you be successful as a student. Test taking involves both test and mental preparation before, during and after a test. After college, testing does not stop. You may need to take tests to keep your credentials up to date in your professional career and beyond.

Test Taking: Before, During, After

Before the Test
- Do daily, weekly and major review sessions
- Schedule reviews
- Create study checklists
- Create mind map summary sheet
- Make flash cards
- Monitor your reviews
- Take a practice test
- Get copies of old exams

During the Test
- Get to class on time, don’t do any list minute review
- Survey the entire test prior to taking the exam
- Take a few deep breaths and relax tense muscles - repeat throughout the test
- Read directions carefully - ask questions
- Answer easier questions first - this will help calm you down
- Manage your time and keep an eye on the clock

After the Test
- Reflect:
  ○ How did you feel about the test?
  ○ How effective were your study strategies?
  ○ Did you accurately predict some of the test questions?
- Review what questions you missed
- Discuss items you did not understand with your instructor
- Review your strengths on test taking
- Review areas of improvement

Test Taking: Question Strategies

Multiple Choice
- Answer each of the questions in your head first
- Read through all of the answers before selecting one
- Test each possible answer
- Eliminate incorrect answers

True/False
- Read the entire question
- Look for qualifiers (all, never, etc.)
- Look for details (dates, facts, etc.)
- Watch out for negatives such as no, not, cannot, etc.
  ○ “Aspirin is not an illegal drug.”

Essay Response
- What is the question asking?
- Outline
- Get to the point
- Write legibly
- Write on one side of the paper, leave back side for forgotten points

Need additional help or more information?
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