

Student Testing Strategies

ENSURE OPTIMUM PERFORMANCE USING THESE STUDENT TEST-TAKING TIPS

- Get lots of sleep the night before the test. Tests are easier when you are mentally sharp.
- Read each question before you look at the answers. Come up with the answer in your head first.
- Eliminate answers you know are incorrect. Read all your choices before making a decision.
- Don't keep changing your answers; usually your first choice is the right one.
- Go back to difficult questions. While looking over the rest of the test and doing easy questions, your mind will have been thinking on the answers for the difficult questions.
- If you have time at the end of the test, check your answers. Did you answer each one completely?
- Check each answer. Does it look reasonable? Check your calculations.
- Don't talk to other students just before a test. Anxiety is contagious.
- Decide on and adopt study practices that worked best for you and use them in the future.
- Proofread your answers for mistakes. (legible, number placement, etc.)
- Express difficult questions in your own words. Rephrasing can make it clear to you, but be sure you don't change the meaning of the question.
- When studying for a test, use your textbooks example problems to review difficult or problem areas.
- If you don't understand a problem, ask the instructor to explain it to you.
- Know how to distinguish between the various types of problems. This is often the hardest part.
- Don't leave preparing for a test to the last minute. Make sure you leave time to ask questions in class after you have studied.
- In class, a day or so before the test, ask the teacher to point out any major similarities or differences among the various types of problems you will encounter on the test.
- Pay careful attention to directions.
- Be sure to completely erase incorrect answers.
- Preview a test before you begin to answer any items. This gets you thinking about the material.
- Do a mind dump! Using what you saw in the preview, make mental notes of anything you think you might forget.
- Answer the easy questions first. This will give you confidence and momentum to get through the rest of the test.
- Use all of the time allotted for the test. If you have extra time, cover up your answers and rework problems.
- Eliminate any answers you know to be wrong, are likely to be wrong, don't seem to fit, or where two options are so similar as to be both incorrect.
- REVIEW! Resist the urge to stop as soon as you have completed all the answers. Review your test for any noticeable mistakes and that you have answered all items.
- Do not "second-guess" yourself and change your original answers. Research has indicated that your first hunch is more likely to be correct.
- Arrive early for your test and bring all the materials you will need; such as: pens, pencils, scratch paper, etc.
- Stay relaxed and confident. Remind yourself that you are well prepared and are going to do well.
- If you find yourself getting anxious or overwhelmed, take a few deep breaths to relax.