

Midyear Exam Study Tips and Tricks

Exam Preparation Tips:

Prioritize material as to its importance (most important to least important) and concentrate your studying on the most important topics. Not sure what is most important? Use the study guides and **ask your teachers!** Be specific when developing a list of questions for your teachers.

Meaningful Organization: You can learn and remember better if you can group ideas into some sort of meaningful categories or groups.

Recitation: Say ideas aloud in your own words.

Visualization: By making a mental picture, you use an entirely different part of the brain than you did by reading or listening.

Association: Memory is increased when facts to be learned are consciously associated with something familiar to you. Begin by asking, "What is this like that I already know and understand?"

Summarize or outline the course or text material in your own words.

Generate your own Examples: Go beyond examples provided in class and in the textbook, and bring your general knowledge and experiences into play by relating them to academic ideas.

Use Mnemonics

Mnemonics are memory training devices or ways of making associations to aid in remembering.

- Rhymes
- Acronyms
- The beginning letters of a set of information can be built into a sentence or a word

Repetition: The more times you go over something, the better your memory will be of that information. However, try to use a different method each time so that you are not just repeating exactly the same activity.

Time Management

Find the best time for studying. After today, there are only 11 days until midterms begin! That's 264 hours. Remember you still have to attend school, do other projects, quizzes, tests, sleep, eat, and attend after school activities/obligations.

After school today, you should make a **calendar** that precisely schedules your every hour until midterms are over, so you can effectively plan your study time for each subject. '

Remember: A series of shorter study sessions distributed over several days is preferable to fewer but longer study sessions.

Where should I study?

Study areas: Set aside a distraction free place for study and study only!

One hour of concentration is better than several hours full of distractions and interruptions.

Study in ways that are suited to you.

- Study with a group or alone (determine which is *really* best for you).
- Study your most challenging subjects/topics during those times of the day that you work best.
 - Are you a morning person or a night person?

Good study areas HAVE:

- good lighting and cool temperatures
- a comfortable chair, but not *too* comfortable
- a desk or table large enough to spread out your materials

Good study areas DON'T HAVE:

- a distracting view of other activities that you would rather be involved in
- a friend or sibling who wants to talk a lot.
- a cell phone
- a TV, video games, or Face book
- **Do not be near a computer unless it is TRULY necessary for studying** (e.g. quizlet or a teacher's website or wiki)

The day of the Test!

Test-Taking Strategies and Tips

I. Matching Tests

- Read all of the items in both columns before making matches
- Start by making the matches about which you are sure.
- Cross out items in both columns as you make matches.
- Make your best guess for remaining items unless there is a penalty for incorrect answers.

II. True/False Tests

- Chose TRUE unless you are sure that a statement is FALSE.
- Remember: For a statement to be TRUE, everything about the statement must be TRUE.
- Remember: A negative can completely change the meaning of a statement. Be careful when a statement has a negative such as *not, do not, un or in*.
- If a statement has two negatives, cross out both negatives. This will make it easier for you to understand the statement.

EXAMPLE:

You will not get good grades if you do not study.

Becomes

You will get good grades if you study.

III. Multiple Choice

- A. Read the question or statement and underline key words such as *not*, *all*, *some*, *except*. These words can give you clues to the correct answer.
- B. Read the question or statement along with each answer choice to help you decide which choice is correct. .
- C. Once you decide an answer choice is incorrect, cross out the answer choice by drawing a line through it.
- D. If you crossed out all the answer choices except one, select the choice you did not cross out as your answer to the item.
- E. If you are left with more than one answer choice that your did not cross out, reread the question or statement with the remaining answer choices and choose the best answer.
- F. Answer all items unless there is a penalty for incorrect answers.
- G. Check your answers to make certain they are correct. .,,)
- H. Change an answer only if you are sure it is correct.

IV. Essay Questions

- A. Read the directions carefully; pay close attention to whether you are supposed to answer all the essays or only a specified amount.
- B. Make sure that you understand what the question is asking you, if not ask your instructor.
- C. Make sure that you write down everything that is asked of you and more. The more details and facts that you write down, the higher your grade is going to be.
- D. Budget your time, don't spend the entire test time on one essay or short answer question.
- E. If the question is asking for facts, don't give your personal opinion on the topic.
- F. Brainstorm and make an outline before writing your essay.
- G. Don't write long introductions and conclusions. The bulk of your time should be spend on answering the question(s) asked.
- H. Budget your time.

IV. Other

- A. Get plenty of sleep.
- B. Drink lots of water.
- C. Eat a healthy breakfast.
- D. Pay attention to your learning style, and use a variety of study techniques.
- E. Take a deep breath and relax.

Sources (Check them out!)

<http://www.studygs.net/>

Healthy You: <http://www.healthyalberta.com/HealthyPlaces/735.htm>

Reading Quest: <http://www.readingquest.org/strat/kwl.html>

NAIT: An Institute of Technology: <http://www.nait.ca/37801.htm>

Center for Learning & Teaching / Cornell University:

http://lsc.sas.cornell.edu/Sidebars/Study_Skills_Resources/exam.pdf

<http://www.ucc.vt.edu/stdysk/sq3r.html>

courseware.ee.calpoly.edu/~jbreiten/htbas.html

www.ucc.vt.edu/stdysk/concentr.html

frank.mtsu.edu/~studskl/mem.html

midtel.net/~natebg/parents.htm

<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/learning/memory.html>

Midterm Exams: *When am I going to study?*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 No School	14	15
16 No School	<p><u>Exam 1</u> 8-10am (Class that meets A Block on 2,3,5,6)</p> <p><u>Exam 2</u> 10:30-12:30 (Class that meets A Block on 1,4 and B Block on 3,6)</p>	<p>18 <u>Exam 3</u> 8-10am (Class that meets B Block on 1,2,4,5)</p> <p><u>Exam 4</u> 10:30-12:30 (Class that meets C Block on 1, 3, 4, 6)</p>	<p>19 <u>Exam 5</u> 8-10am (Class that meets C Block on 2, 5 and D Block on 1, 4)</p> <p><u>Exam 6</u> 10:30-12:30 (Class that meets D Block on 2, 3, 4, 6)</p>	<p>20 <u>Exam 7</u> 8-10am (Class that meets E Block on 1,3,4,6)</p> <p>Make Up Period 10:30-12:30</p>		