

TEST PREPARATION

1. The best test preparation is daily drill and practice of the material to be learned. The more you practice what you are learning the better chance that it will be in your long-term memory and ready to be retrieved at test time.
2. Practice taking tests on your own. "Play school" and do the test as you will be asked to do so in real life. First however, study the material and review your notes. Find a quiet place, have a test copy, pencil and calculator if allowed, and time yourself doing the test. For math courses, there are practice tests on the math department website under resources. Do all the work required. Stop when time is up.
3. Check your results either with an answer key, classmate, or tutor. Find out what you know and what you still need to study.
4. Try some more problems in your areas of difficulty. Reread the textbook section and its examples. Make some note cards with these problems and review the steps of solution.
5. Before beginning a test, write down what you want to remember on a piece of scratch paper (during the testing period, not before!). This will relieve your anxiety of forgetting important information and formulas as you do the test. Read all the problems. Then do the ones you can solve easily. Go back later to the harder ones.



6. Watch your time. Leave some time to review your work. Use all of the allotted testing time.
7. Review a returned test to see how the test was constructed. Did the problems come from the text, classroom examples, or given assignments? The next test will most likely follow this pattern.
8. Don't make the same mistakes twice. Find out what you did wrong and correct it. A test is not finished when you find out your grade. To really learn from a test, analyze its results. The material from a previous test must be learned before you take the next one. Once you have looked over your mistakes, meet with your professor, TA or a tutor to clarify any misconceptions.