

Final Exam Study Tips

BEFORE YOU STUDY

Write down your final exam schedule. Write down what you need to bring to each final (calculator? pens/pencils? note card?)

Use an organizer of what you will need to do when and for what. Rank the items in order of importance and occurrence.

Schedule a time to study for each class – regardless of how well you are doing.

Ask your teachers if they will share what kinds of tests they will be giving and what is the best to study (multiple choice, essay, short answer, etc). Feel free to ask your teacher what information is important to study.

Make time to meet with teachers about any information that is unclear to you. It may help to bring in a list of what you have determined to be important to study and see if the teacher agrees.

Know how you study best, how you retain information best. Do you study better alone or with a partner? No more than three people should study together. Pick your partners carefully. It is OK to tell someone “no” to study with; this is YOUR GRADE!

A CHECKLIST

- Organize your class notes and handouts for each subject (by dates or topics). Make sure you bring home all the materials to do this.
- Find and organize past tests and quizzes for each class.
- Determine how much information each exam will cover (cumulative?).
- Complete all teacher-made study guides, even if you think you don't need to. If no study guides are given, you can do chapter reviews (especially helpful in math).
- Create your own study guides: make questions for yourself or for a friend and exchange questions; flash cards; create nonsense words. It is proven that writing down information helps you to retain information better than if you just read it.
- Write your own sample test questions. Anticipating what the teacher may ask is a great study skill.
- Quiz/teach a friend. Teaching a subject shows you understand it.
- Take breaks. Study for no more than 45-50 minutes without a break. Try switching off subjects if you feel overwhelmed.

TAKING THE EXAM: Some Tips

Make sure you know key words. When you make study guides, or on the test itself, keep these words in mind:

examine
justify
diagram

state
describe
relate

compare
illustrate
contrast

define
support
demonstrate