

Test Prep

Be Prepared for a Comprehension Test

- ✓ Preparation for your first test should begin on the first day of class; this includes paying attention during class, taking good notes, studying, completing homework assignments and reviewing study materials on a regular basis.
- ✓ Budget your time, make sure you have sufficient time to study so that you are well prepared for the test.
- ✓ Go to review sessions, pay attention to hints that the instructor may give about the test. Take notes and ask questions about items you may be confused about.
- ✓ Ask the instructor to specify the areas that will be emphasized on the test.
- ✓ Know the format of the test (multiple choice, essay, fill in etc.)
- ✓ Make sure you go to the class right before the test; it's another prime time for the instructor to give out more hints or the format of the test.
- ✓ Go over any material from practice tests, HW's, sample problems, review material, the textbook, class notes.
- ✓ Eat before a test. Having food in your stomach will give you energy and help you focus but avoid heavy foods which can make you groggy.
- ✓ Don't try to pull an all nighter. Get 8 hours of sleep the night before the test.
- ✓ Try to show up at least 5 minutes before the test will start.
- ✓ Set your alarm and have a backup alarm set as well.
- ✓ Go to the bathroom before walking into the exam room. You don't want to waste anytime worrying about your bodily needs during the test.
- ✓ Wear comfortable cloths.

- ✓ Turn off your cell phone. Interruptions will not help your concentration.

More Tips for Test Preparation

When you take a test, you are demonstrating your ability to understand course material or perform certain tasks. Successful test taking avoids carelessness..

These suggestions and links at left may help you succeed in having your abilities properly evaluated and efforts rewarded!

1. **Analyze how you did on a similar test in the past.**
Review your previous tests and sample tests provided by your teacher.
Each test you take prepares you for the next one!
2. **Arrive early for tests.**
List what you need beforehand to avoid panic.
Good preparation prepares you for the task at hand.
3. **Be comfortable but alert.**
Choose a comfortable location with space enough that you need
Don't slouch; maintain good posture.
4. **Stay relaxed and confident.**
Keep a good attitude and remind yourself that you are going to do your best.
If you find yourself panicking, take a few deep breaths
Don't talk to other students right before: stress can be contagious.
5. **Read directions carefully!**
and avoid careless errors.
6. **If there is time, quickly look through the test for an overview.**
Scan for keywords. If permitted, jot any notes that come to mind.
7. **Answer questions in a strategic order:**
Easy questions first to build confidence.
Then those with the most point value.
On objective tests, eliminate obvious incorrect answers.
On essay tests, broadly outline your answer and sequence of points.
8. **Review! if you have time.**
Resist the urge to leave when you complete the exam--
check if you have answered all the questions,
and not made any errors or mis-marked any answers.
9. **Change answers to questions if you erred, or misread the question!**
You may also find information in the test that will correct a previous answer.

Decide on and adopt study strategies that work best for you.

Review where you succeed and where you are challenged.

Check out your academic support center or a trusted teacher for advice.