

5 DAY TEST PREP

5 Days Before



- Look over all the material (text, lecture notes, handouts) and get organized.
- Isolate the difficult areas that give you problems.
- Section off the remaining material into organized, easy-to-handle amounts.
- Decide which study tools you can create to organize and improve your review:
 - ___ Flash cards or master lists ___ Summary sheets
 - ___ Time lines ___ Comparison/contrast charts
 - ___ Diagrams or flow charts ___ Speed-study diagram
 - ___ Mind maps (visual outlines) ___ Formal outlines
 - ___ Mnemonic devices
 - ___ Audio tapes of important concepts NOTE: color-code ideas to improve recall

- Choose which study strategies you can use for improved concentration, comprehension, and recall:

- ___ Self-test on all chapter highlighting ___ Self-test on all chapter summaries
- ___ Answer chapter or study guide questions ___ Self-test on all lecture notes
- ___ Rework homework and quiz questions ___ Attend a review session
- ___ Memorize in short, intense daily reviews
- ___ Predict & answer possible test questions
- ___ Use all senses to memorize: in each review, see it, say it, hear it, write it
- ___ At the end of a page in text or notes, formulate test questions, answer aloud
- ___ Recite aloud: read a paragraph or page, then look away and explain concepts aloud
- ___ Take turns with a study partner to test each other on flash cards, etc.

4 Days Before



Begin with difficult, problem areas.

- Study intensively – reread a section, combine the information with lecture notes on the topic, and really put your mind to understanding it. It's not enough to recognize material; you need to be able to produce it. Test yourself by reciting information aloud in your own words. Explain concepts, define terms, ask and answer questions.
- If you can't say it, you don't know it! Go back and study it again.
- If you still have problems after this study session, you'll still have time to get help from professor, tutor, or classmate before the test.

3 Days Before



Study all the remaining, easier material.

- Again, use recitation for thorough understanding and retention.

2 Days Before



Study all the material thoroughly from beginning to end, as if the test were the next day. Put the most time and effort into studying on this day. Review the parts you know well; put more effort into the difficult areas. To simulate the test, ask yourself possible test questions or have someone else quiz you.

For essay exams, try this step-by-step process:

- Come up with about ten possible essay questions, using your notes and text as sources.
- Outline a brief answer to each, covering the key points you would need to make to earn full credit. Use your notes and text as if this were an open-book test.
- Reduce the outlined answer to key words that will trigger your memory. Memorize those key words, using mnemonic devices like acronyms, peg words, or loci.
- Even if you don't encounter those exact questions, you will have categorized and organized the course content. You will have processed the information in terms of being tested, putting it at your command and better preparing you to answer related questions.

1 Day Before



Review briefly and get a good night's sleep!

- Over the course of five days, you will have studied all of the material three times. Sleep will help you recall and use all that you have learned.



5 DAY TEST PREP

Course & Exam

Target Grade

5 Days Before

4 Days Before

3 Days Before

2 Days Before

1 Day Before

SAMPLE
Philosophy Exam
Thursday, (Date)
25 multiple choice
questions
Details important
Use practice test

B

Saturday
Organize all material
Determine most
difficult areas

Sunday
Study most difficult areas
Read out loud
Make note cards
Define terms
Make audio tapes
SEE TUTOR

Monday
Study rest of material
Read out loud
Define terms
Make concept map
Visit office hours

Tuesday
Study all material
Go to review session
Review note cards
Listen to tapes
Tutor available for
questions

Wednesday
Review briefly
Confirm any final
questions
GO TO BED EARLY