

Preparing For Your Final Exams

Don't forget to eat properly and sleep! Have snacks available while you're studying, and don't sacrifice sleep for extra study time. Also, don't study for more than an hour without taking a short break.

Anticipating Exam Content

- Generate a list of possible questions you would ask if you were making the exam, then see if you can answer the questions.
- Review previous tests, quizzes, and assignments graded by your teacher
- Go over practice exams to see what types of questions have been asked in the past

Review Sheets

An excellent tool to study with is a review sheet - you should make one for each unit. Your textbook and class notes will come in very handy when making your review sheets. Your review sheet should consist of important ideas, examples, and formulas that you learned throughout the unit. In your textbook, these items will be highlighted at the beginning or end of each chapter. There are numerous ways of making a review sheet, do what is best for you and what you feel most comfortable with.

Crunch Time:

As the exam approaches, study math every night, even if for only 30-60 minutes. Practice questions you are confident will appear on the exam so that you are assured of these marks. Choose a different set of concepts each night until two nights before the exam. At this time, take a few hours and go over as many concepts as possible. Go visit your teacher for last minute help or spend some time with your study group.

The eve of the exam:

The night before your exam should be spent mainly on your own. After all, you have to write the exam by yourself, not with your study group! Have the phone number of a study partner near so you can call them when you are stuck. If all has gone well, this night should be a night of light review and confidence building. Do questions you know you can do, and challenge yourself with harder ones after. In all cases, you should be doing questions that you already have solutions for so you can avoid being stuck. The last thing you want to do is panic yourself by attempting difficult questions without the solutions. *Get some sleep! Do not go into a math exam tired.*

On the Day of the Exam:

Focus your attention on what you do know rather than on what you don't know. Leave your notes and text at home, so that you can't study on the way to the exam. Use this time to relax yourself. Talk to friends if that helps you relax. Alternately, find a place sit on your own if other people's concerns are likely to rattle you. Approach the exam with confidence!

Writing the exam:

- Read the instructions very carefully.
- Next, read each question carefully, underline the key words and check off questions that you can solve easily. Do these questions first as they will help you to build confidence.
- Next, look the exam over again. Usually at this point, the previous questions will have triggered your expertise on other concepts and you find more questions that you can do. Keep doing this until you have completed the exam or simply run out of time.
- Make sure to always leave some time to check the exam over. Try covering up your solutions to the questions and doing them again on a scrap piece of paper. This is time consuming, but is a positive approach to finding errors. Watch out for small mistakes, and technical errors.

After the Exam:

Avoid being worried about how you did - it's too late to change anything. You gave it your best shot so engage in a relaxing activity.

Information gathered from:

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www.sdc.uwo.ca

www.brainmass.com

www.iss.stthomas.edu