

A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO STUDYING AND TAKING EXAMS

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UTILIZE THE STRATEGY IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE ACADEMIC SUCCESS!

DEFINE THE WORD, “STUDY”

- According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the word, “study” means to...
- “To devote time and attention to acquire knowledge on a subject”
- “A detailed investigation or analysis of a subject or situation”
- “To look at closely or observe” (i.e., “research, examine, inspect and consider”)



WHAT IS STRATEGIC STUDYING?

- Sets specific goals to achieve particular outcomes in a certain amount of time.
- Set specific goals that target what you will learn at the end of each week in a 15-week semester.
- (i.e., Read the first 5 pages in chapter 1 for 30 minutes and learn five main concepts by 8:00p.m. tonight)



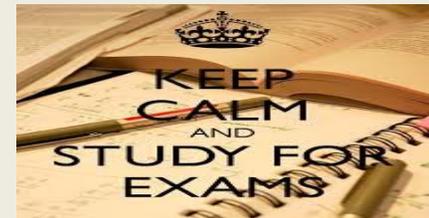
STRATEGIC STUDYING IS...

- Intense (Serious)
- Intentional (Purposeful)



HOW DO YOU STRATEGICALLY STUDY FOR...?

- Essay Questions
- Multiple Choice Questions
- Fill in the Blank Questions
- Short Answer Questions
- Problem Solving Questions
- Open-Book Exams
- Midterms
- Finals



PREPARE FOR EXAMS BY...

- Organizing all related information from lectures, discussion and the textbook on each topic in a table, outline or diagram/chart
- After you attend each lecture and read each chapter, test yourself by writing a summary of what you remember
- Develop mock test questions from the lecture and textbook after you read each chapter



PREPARE FOR EXAMS BY...

- Utilizing one of the following study apps to organize information.

- IStudiez

<https://istudentpro.com/>

- Quizlet

<https://quizlet.com/>

- MyStudyLife

<https://www.mystudylife.com/>

A green rectangular box containing a white crown icon at the top, followed by the text "KEEP CALM AND LET'S PRACTICE" in white, bold, uppercase letters.

KEEP
CALM
AND
LET'S
PRACTICE

PREPARE FOR EXAMS BY...

- Work various types of practice problems from lecture and the textbook in a certain amount of time
- Write down what you remember without looking at your lecture notes or the textbook (Do this daily)
- Use the voice recorder on your phone to record vocabulary terms, and summary from lecture and textbook and then listen to it each day on your way to and from class and in the morning and at night.



Before Completing the Essay Question...

1. Read the Question.
2. Understand what it is asking you to do.
3. Follow the instructions in the question.
(i.e., compare, contrast, discuss, explain, justify)



While Completing the Essay Question...

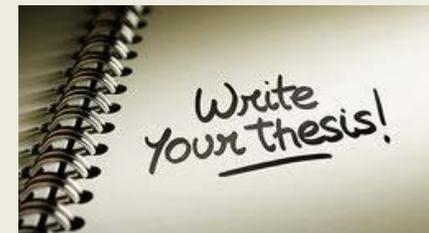
1. Write down everything you remember from lectures, textbook, articles, etc.
2. Make sure you have a thesis statement (Main sentence at the beginning that answers the question)
3. Include vocabulary words, statements from lecture and the textbook that relate to the question.



Example of an Essay Question...

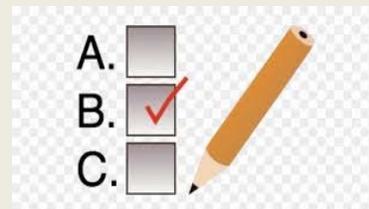
Discuss the concept of Strategic Studying and the impact you believe it can have on a student's learning potential and academic performance.

For the next minute – Draft an essay to answer this question.



Multiple Choice Questions

1. Read the question and understand what it is asking
2. Answer the question (Write your answer down before looking at the choices)
3. Review choices and eliminate wrong answers
4. Read every choice and select the best answer (Determine if your written answer matches one of the choices listed)



Multiple Choice Tips

1. “Multiple choice questions, consist of 2 parts: The statement or question.”
2. “The choices – are also known as the distractors”
3. “On most tests, there are 3 to 5 options from which you choose the one that will complete the statement or question. You should select the choice that best answers the question or addresses the statement.
4. Answers that contain the words: “always, never, all, and must are usually incorrect:
5. Answers that contain the words: “seldom, generally, tend to, probably, and usually” are most often correct:

Anatomy of Multiple Choice Question

42. As societies increase in complexity from folk to industrial, social control is more likely to be invested in the:

- a. family
- b. school
- c. state
- d. peer group
- e. religious structures

Distractors

The "Key"

Item

(Question from GRE, Sociology Test 1997-1999)

Example of a Multiple Choice Question

1. Select the best answer to complete the statement in the Multiple Choice Question Below...
2. “Strategic Studying...”
 - A. Tends to set specific goals to achieve outcomes
 - B. Is Intense and Intentional
 - C. All of the Above
 - D. None of the Above
 - E. A and B.

Anatomy of Multiple Choice Question

42. As societies increase in complexity from folk to industrial, social control is more likely to be invested in the:

- a. family
 - b. school
 - c. state
 - d. peer group
 - e. religious structures
- Democracy
- The "Key"
- Stem

(Question from GRE, Sociology Test 1997-1999)

Fill in the Blank Questions

1. Pay attention to the number of blank spaces in a sentence. Be sure to provide an answer in each blank space.
2. Read each question carefully and understand what is being asked.
3. Give a descriptive response when you are unable to provide the correct answer to the question.
4. Pay attention to the word listed before the blank space; this will determine if answer should be in a singular or plural form.

Strategies for Fill-in-the-Blank Questions

- Study from the backs of your index cards.
- Use immediate response.
- Use delayed response; search your memory for the category and ask questions.
- Use assisted response by skimming the rest of the test.
- Substitute a related synonym or phrase.

Example of a Fill in the Blank Question

1. Read the question listed below, and fill in the blanks to complete the statement.
2. What type of test questions should you strategically study for?

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Short Answer Questions

1. Short-Answer questions can be answered with a few sentences, or a word or a phrase.
2. Answer the question being asked.
3. Write clear answers
4. Speak with the professor if you feel the need to list more than one answer to a question.

Short Answer Test Items

- Typically, the student is asked to reply with a word, phrase, name, or sentence, rather than a more extended response.
 - Direct Questions / Short Answer
 - Who is the current Prime Minister of Canada?
 - Incomplete Sentences / Fill in the Blanks
 - The current Prime Minister of Canada is _____?
- Items are fairly easy to construct and mark
- Assess mainly knowledge, comprehension, and some application.

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Example of a Short Answer Question

1. Write a short answer to complete the question below.
2. How should a student prepare for exams?

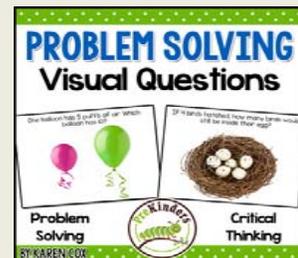
For the next minute, write your short answer.

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Problem-Solving Questions

1. Review notes from lecture and textbook.
2. Understand the concepts, methods and formulas that apply to each type of problem.
3. Write formulas down and the name of problem that relates to each one.
4. Write an example of the solution/answer that accompanies each problem.
5. Work the problems that you feel comfortable with first and be mindful of the time limit for the test.
6. Review your test before turning it in.



Example of a Problem-Solving Question

1. Using the acronym, PEMDAS- (Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally), complete the mathematical equation below:

Parentheses

Exponents

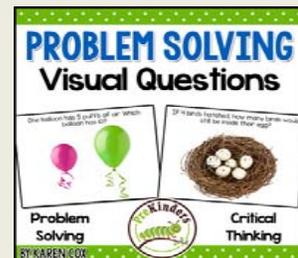
Multiplication

Division

Addition

Subtraction

$$6(4 \times 4)^2 \times 5(3 \times 3)^2 \div 1000 + 1500 - 200 =$$



OPEN BOOK EXAMS

Prepare by doing the following:

1. Review all lecture notes and readings from textbook.
2. Organize and summarize lecture notes and readings from textbooks (i.e. utilize tables, concept maps and/or outlines).
3. Create a reference sheet which contains where to find information in the textbook/lecture notes (i.e., page numbers, dates of lectures, PowerPoints and handouts).
4. Anticipate questions from textbook/lecture and write them down in an essay format to gain practice for the actual exam.
5. Be familiar with words, people, dates and events mentioned in lecture and in the textbook – Create a reference list with this information.

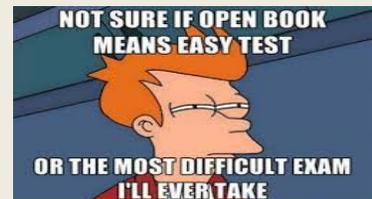
Purpose of 'Open Book Exam'

This will test students' ability to quickly find relevant information and then to understand, analyze, apply knowledge and think critically.

OPEN BOOK EXAMS

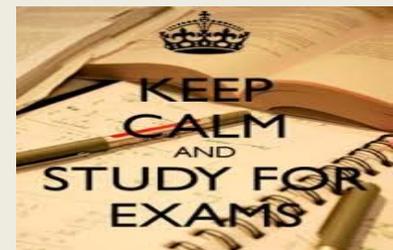
During the Open Book Exam, do the following:

1. Understand the question that is being asked. (Pay attention to words: Examine, Evaluate, Discuss, Analyze, Synthesize, Argue, etc.)
2. Be sure to incorporate key terms, quotes from the book, notes from lecture and your own comments when answering the question.
3. Given the time limit for the test, answer the questions you are most comfortable with first. (i.e., easy to difficult or difficult to easy)



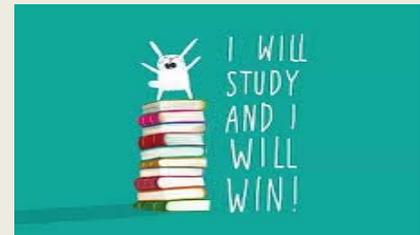
Mid-Term and Final Exams

1. Begin learning information for midterms and final exams on the first day of class.
2. Be sure to read/review the chapter and notes before and after each class.
3. At the end of week 1 up until the week of midterms and one week before finals, review your notes from Lecture and all of the textbook readings several times.



Mid-Term and Final Exams

1. Create a study schedule for Midterm and Final Exams
2. Determine if the final is comprehensive (Covers all material since the first day of class.)
3. Organize all related topics together (Integrate lecture and textbook readings along with any handouts)
4. Challenge yourself to learn key terms, dates, key persons and formulas by the end of each week up until the mid-term and a week before the final exam.



Mid-Term and Final Exams

1. Review all of your quizzes and exams at the end of each test week
2. Write short summaries of what you can remember from lecture and textbook readings
3. Re-work problems (from lecture, textbook, quizzes and exams)
4. Have a friend quiz you over the course material



THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

