

Test Preparation

The best way to ensure a feeling of confidence on a test is adequate preparation. The following tips can help you prepare for tests.

1. **Try to find out in advance the type of test you will be having.** When studying for an essay test, you will need to practice writing and organizing your thoughts in such a way that your main ideas will be evident and clear to the reader. If you know you will be answering true-false or objective terms, you will need to learn many details instead of focusing on organized general topics. If the instructor does not announce the type of test, ask for this information. Even if the information is not forthcoming, you can get a hint of the instructor's format after the first test.
2. **Attend classes.** Going to class can help prepare you for your exams. Pay attention for cues from your instructor on what might be on the test or how to study for the test.
3. **Go to review sessions.** Look for review sessions offered through ASAP. These sessions are not usually held during your regularly scheduled course, and include material that will help you review and prepare for your test.
4. **Organize study groups or work with a partner.** Working in groups can help you understand the test material in different ways. Get together with students in your class and arrange a time to meet to go over class notes.
5. **Connect the class lectures with the textbook.** After each lecture, review the lecture notes you made, and look over the textbook chapter to make connections and reinforce your learning. Recopy your notes, incorporating the lecture and the textbook. If you do this throughout the semester, you will not feel the need to cram, or study all the material in one day.
6. **Use prediction to prepare for a test.** Make a habit of predicting what questions will be on the test, and try to answer those questions. This helps you focus on the test and the range of material to study.
7. **Use distributed or spaced study.** Study for your tests in several intervals, instead of all at once. You will be able to remember more of the content if you space out your study time. *Don't put off studying for exams!*
8. **Organize your study notes in a form that works for you.** Find a way to enhance your notes and organize information. Use note cards, concept maps, and outlines. Effective note-taking will help you make sense out of, and understand the material on the exam.
9. **Over-learn.** When you think you know the test material, go a step further. Study a little longer or in a different way.
10. **Use a variety of materials and methods to study.** Reread chapter summaries; look over any underlining or highlighting. Use your notes to predict possible essay or objective questions. Look over any previous quizzes, essays, or handouts the instructor has used.