Test-Taking Tips



There are several strategies that you can implement when you sit down in front of that exam on test day. Read and practice the following exercises to start internalizing those cognitive strategies.

When?.....What class?.....Where?.....What do I need?

Arriving to your test...

Arrive early – give yourself time to get your materials ready
Choose the right seat — sit near the front to avoid distractions
Avoid the nerves — sit around students who don't seem nervous

When you get to the test...

Memory dump — jot down any formulas, acronyms, or definitions you may need
Look over the entire exam — get an idea of how many questions there are and what types
Read instructions carefully — if something doesn't make sense, ask!

Are you prepared?

Learning Labs:
Free tutoring for every subject
Academic Coaching:
Learn study strategies, effective textbook reading, ways to manage test anxiety and more!
Testing Center:
Be sure to check out the Testing Center Guidelines so you are ready when you walk out the door.

Multiple Choice:

- Do the ones you know first!
- Eliminate the answers you know are wrong
- Use information from one question to help answer another
- Make educated guesses

A college student is most likely to have this at any given time during the school year:

A) a car
B) a job
C) a pen
D) a pet

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Test-Taking Tips (cont.)

TEST-TAKING STRATEGIES

True/False:

- Watch out for absolute statements: always, never, all, except, etc.
- If any part of a statement is false, it's false
- Make educated guesses — even if you aren't sure, you have a 50% chance of being right!

T/F: All birds can fly.

T/F: There are ten zeros in the number one million.

T/F: Austin is the capital of Texas.

Matching:

- Do the ones you know first
- Can the words be matched more than once?
- Cross out used words as you go

English poet/playwright	A. George Washington
Egyptian Queen	B. Shakespeare
First U.S. President	C. Abraham Lincoln
Emancipation Proclamation	D. Cleopatra

Fill-in-the-blank & Short Answer:

- Make sure your answer is grammatically correct
- Be concise — write just enough to answer the question
- If you don't know the whole answer, write down what you do know (you could receive partial credit)

Bill has _____ sisters who like to eat _____
a) two; birds b) three; fruit c) one; cake

What was the Emancipation Proclamation?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Essay Question

- Be aware of the time you have to complete the essay!
- Create an outline. This will not only organize your thoughts, but also let the professor know where you were going with the essay if you don't finish
- Write neatly the first time around so you don't have to use time rewriting

What are your three favorite subjects and why?

1) Introduction_____
2)_____
   a)_____
3)_____
   a)_____
4)_____
   a)_____
5) Conclusion_____

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