

Strategies for Math Exam Preparation

How should you prepare for your math exam?

- 1) Start your preparation early. Two to three weeks before your first final, map out the amount of time you will need to study.

Suggestion:

- Use a five-day study plan in which you count back five days from each of your final exam dates to determine when to start studying for each exam. For example, if you have an exam on Wednesday, start studying for it on the preceding Saturday.
 - Schedule blocks of time each day to study--divide the day by studying in the morning, in the afternoon, and in the evening.
- 2) Organize your study area to reduce interference.
 - Make sure that you have all the necessary materials before you begin studying. Some students study better if they have a regular spot which they can go to.
 - 3) To keep you motivated, break down tasks and vary your study hours.
 - 4) Use active strategies to study.
 - ✓ Make a list of topics covered in each unit.
 - ✓ Go over your notes for a given unit and copy down a typical question from each lesson but don't make a note of which lesson it comes from.
 - ✓ Make a list of all homework from this unit. Choose a few examples of each type of problem.
 - ✓ When you have made a list of these questions, write them out in a random order. Now try to answer these questions. Look for other text questions that cover the same material but were not assigned. Always check your answers.
 - ✓ Make note of all questions you do not get correct. This forms a new list.
 - ✓ Redo the questions from your new list and if you still can't get the questions correct – ask for extra help well in advance of the exam.
 - 5) Ask about test format find out if it will be multiple choice, essay, true or false, or a combination of these so that you will know how to study best.
 - 6) Form a study group not just for the night before the exam, but one that meets throughout the semester.
 - 7) Teach it to someone if you can teach the material to someone then you can be sure that you know it.