



SuperStar Study Skills Classes



Test Taking Tips for Top Grades

General Test Taking Tips:

1. When the teacher tells you about an upcoming test, ask him or her to explain what the test is going to cover. Find out if the test covers material from the textbook only or includes class notes, handouts or other topics.
2. If you have been absent, talk to reliable friends with good study habits about material you may have missed. Ask them if they are willing to share their class notes for the days you missed.
3. Make a list of the most important topics to be covered and use that as a guide when you study. Make a list of possible questions that might be on the test and write out the answers.
4. Make a set of flash cards to use as a study tool. These cards can contain information that you need to learn for the test. You can write possible test questions on one side with the answers on the back. For some students, drawing a picture on the back of the flash card illustrating the concept or fact helps them remember the information.
5. Go over your class notes and textbook readings each day for a week prior to the test. Cramming the night before is not an effective way to study for a test because it doesn't allow you time to absorb and understand the material.
6. Find a "study buddy" who is a good student to help you study. Sometimes talking about the topics and possible test questions will help you understand and remember the material.
7. Do a ten minute power study right before the test so your brain is turned on and tuned up.
8. Look over your study materials right before going to bed the night before the test and get a good night's sleep. Your brain continues to process information even in your sleep!
9. Eat a nutritious breakfast rich in protein that morning. This provides the brain fuel you need to think clearly.

Test Taking Strategies:

1. Read the test directions very carefully. If you don't follow directions, you could miss items and make a poor grade.
2. Ask the teacher to clarify any part of the directions you don't understand.
3. Read over the entire test to see what is involved and how much you have to do. Be sure and look on the back of each sheet to see if there are test items to be answered there.
4. Decide how much time you will spend on each section and leave a few minutes at the end to review your answers. Don't change any answers unless you are very sure your first answer is incorrect.
5. If there are different weights or points for items, plan to spend the most time on the items or sections that count the most.
6. Do the multiple choice items first if your test has types of questions other than multiple choice. Merely reading the questions and possible answers will stimulate your thinking and you may find hints in one question that will help you answer other questions.
7. Read each item carefully before answering. One word can change the meaning of an entire test item.
8. If you come across an item that throws you, don't panic. Reread the question to make sure you understand it, then try to solve it. If you're still stuck, circle it, move on and come back to it later.
9. Answer questions and/or complete sections that look easiest for you first. This helps you build confidence and gives you more time to answer more difficult items.
10. Before turning your test in to the teacher, look over your test one last time. Review the test directions to be sure you have followed all instructions and answered all required items.