Multiple Choice Questions

Read the questions carefully and determine the answer before you look at the choices.

If you are unsure, use process of elimination to narrow down the choices then make a logical guess.

Never leave a question blank; you have a 20-25% chance of getting it right by guessing.

Try not to change your original answer - in most cases your intuition is correct.

Short Answer Questions

Read the question carefully! Ask yourself, what are they specifically asking?

Give a specific clear to the point explanation.

Use examples from your textbook, class or the real world.

Essay Questions

Determine main themes & topics.

Read the question carefully! Underline key words in the question.

Before you begin writing, jot down all your ideas and organize them into an essay plan. Don't write your essay off the top of your head!

Structure your essay: introduction, the body and the conclusion.

Try to write as legibly as possible.

Tips to Improve Your Memory

Acronyms: Acronyms are making a word from the first letter of each word that is to be memorized. For example, HOMES for the Great Lakes (Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior).

Acrostics: Acrostics are phases or poems in which the first letter of each word or line functions as a cue to help you recall the words that you are trying to remember. For example, *"Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally* is used to remember the order of operations in Math.

Map or Charts: Use mind maps or charts to organize your information. This visually helps you to remember.

Imagery: Draw or imagine a picture of what's being studied, or find one in a book. Mentally refer to the picture when you are testing.

Rehearse: Verbally repeat or rehearse the information over and over again until you know it! Take a short break and then test yourself again.

Highlighters: Use highlighters to review your notes. If they are colour coded, underlined or highlighted it may help you to remember based on visual stimulation.

Newmarket High School

STUDY SKILLS

How to Study for Exams and Improve Your Grades

The Week before Exams

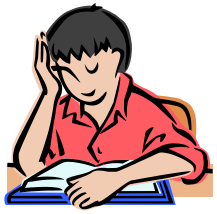
Find out exactly what is required for the exam

- Time, date, location and length of exam
- Ask your teacher what the exam will cover and what kind of questions may be asked
- Find out what you will need to bring to the exam e.g. calculator, ruler etc…
- Ask your teacher about the format of the exam e.g. multiple choice, diagrams, essay etc...

The following suggestions will help you improve your study skills:

- **SETUP A SCHEDULE** Use a calendar to plan your study time, recreation and social activities. For classes that are harder, make sure you give yourself more time to study. **DO NOT CRAM!**
- **FIND A GOOD LOCATION** Make sure the place is comfortable, but not too comfortable. Sitting at a desk or table is best. Avoid lying across the bed.
- **USE THE SAME PLACE FOR STUDYING.** This will help you with your memory when it is time for a test. It will also help you to concentrate better, because you will be in a routine or habit of studying in the same place.

- **DETERMINE WHAT YOUR IDEAL STUDY CONDITIONS ARE**. Everyone studies differently. Make sure your study space is an effective one for you where you can focus on the material, free from distractions. Remember, in the exam you will be at a desk in a quiet room. Keep this in mind so that you are comfortable in this type of environment



- **TAKE BREAKS**. Take breaks when studying. Study small portions of material, take a break and then study some more
- **REWARD YOURSELF.** If you have stuck to your study plan; reward yourself by watching TV or a movie, playing X-Box or surfing the Internet. You are more likely to study again and concentrate if you know there is a reward at the end of completing a task

On Exam Day

- Be well rested and eat a healthy meal before the exam.
- Be confident; a positive attitude is an asset
- Use the washroom just before the exam
- Arrive at the exam room at least 10 minutes before the exam
- Leave bags/jackets in your locker
- Don't talk to other students before the exam, they may confuse you
- Bring the necessary materials—you will not be allowed to share equipment

Before you Write the Exam

- Look over the entire exam, this will give you an overview of what is expected of you
- Read all directions carefully
- Schedule your time according to the marking scheme
- If you would like, complete the questions you know the best, first!

Writing the Exam

- Use all available time.
- Check each question one at a time. Information for other answers may jump in your mind
- Proofread your answers.
- Make sure that you write your name on the exam paper.
- Do not leave any questions blank—write something for part marks.
- Don't watch other students. A fast finisher may know very little.