

# Preparing for your College Finals

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TIPS TO IMPROVE STUDY SKILLS FOR TEST TAKING



## Create Mnemonics

Mnemonics are devices that can help you memorize formulas, key concepts, definitions, etc. A really basic example of a mnemonic is "Please excuse my dear Aunt Sally" which stands for parenthesis, exponents, multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction.

## Make a Study Guide

Whether or not your instructor gives you a study guide for an exam, making a study guide is very helpful when studying for tests. Go through the textbook, notes, and any other material and write down any information that you think may be on the test such as important concepts, definitions, and formulas. Reading and writing the information will help you memorize it faster. If your instructor gives you a study guide, make sure to cover all the points listed.

## Make Flash Cards

Making flash cards can be a bit time consuming, but flash cards are helpful tools in remembering vocabulary, formulas, and key concepts. They are also easy to carry around with you so you can review them anytime.

## Quiz Yourself

To ensure that you are prepared for your test, make a mock quiz to test how well you know the material. Write down a list of keywords or questions and make sure to leave room underneath each one. Then, pretend that you're taking the test and write down as much as you can.

## Set Time Goals

Setting time goals for yourself will help make sure that you stay on track especially when you have time constraints. You're more likely to be productive if you have goals to achieve.

## **Remember to Take Breaks**

Studying is hard stuff. You need to take short breaks to allow your brain to process and retain the information. Otherwise, you may confuse yourself or forget something you have already studied. Be sure to take only a short break, otherwise, it may be hard to go back to studying. When you begin studying again, review the material you have already studied, then, move on to something new.

## **Don't Study Alone**

Studying with other people can be easier. If possible convince your classmates to meet at the library at a specific time on a regular basis. If you and your classmates have different schedules, do your best to find time when at least two of you are able to meet. This will also help you and your classmates develop good study skills, keep tabs on each other, and make sure they will be with you on graduation day.

## **Study During the Week**

Everyone has varied schedules and responsibilities. Put in study time whenever possible. Don't always look for those big chunks of time like the weekends. If you have time between or after classes while you are still on campus, that may be a good time to pop into the library for a quick hour of studying.

## **Schedule Time for Studying**

College students who regularly have gaps in their class schedule should mark off those hours as study time. By making it part the routine, students should get into the habit after a few weeks, and not even think about it. Find time that works for you while on campus or at home and try to stick to a regular schedule.

## **Get Lots of Sleep**

Those who get a full night of sleep are usually more alert, more focused and learn things easier than those who are sleep deprived. Try to keep your sleep schedule as consistent as possible.