

Tips for Preparing for Final Exams

1. Create or Use a study guide.

Outline the important information you need to know.

2. Ask questions.

Your teachers are there to help! Ask them questions regarding the material and the exam so that you're prepared when exam time arrives.

3. Have a review session or group study session.

Get a group of classmates together to go over information and quiz each other.

4. Start early.

If you always start ahead of schedule, you'll never be cramming the night before an exam. You'll almost always perform better in doing so!

5. Study things not on the study guide.

Study guides aren't always comprehensive – they're just suggestions of the main concepts to learn. Use your study guide for its intended purpose: a guide. Be sure to fill in the blanks with related information.

6. Take breaks.

You won't be able to memorize or comprehend all the material at once. Balance is key – ensure that you reward learning with break times to recharge and relax.

7. Different subjects call for different studying.

If it's math you're studying for, work on the problems. Don't just read over it like you would for a history class, because you can actually *do* math, but you can seldom *do* history. Working problems out will help burn them into your mind, and remember: if you can't solve the problem before the exam, you won't be able to solve it on the exam either. For subjects based on calculations, it is important to do questions because this is essentially how you are going to be tested.

8. Stay well-rested and Get Eat a Good Breakfast.

There's a lot to be said about a good night's sleep. Make sure you're [well-rested](#) so that you can be fully focused during your exams. Eat a good breakfast and lunch you fuel your brain for long tests.

9. Create a studying schedule.

Splitting the material into chunks you can actually achieve can be very beneficial. That way, you can keep track of what you've accomplished instead of looking at the big picture and getting overwhelmed.

10. Prioritize your exams.

Some exams will be more difficult than others, some you may find easier to study for. Some may be worth more of your grade than others. Make sure to evaluate all of your exams to consider and determine all of the involved factors so you can study accordingly.

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11. Study for the style of exam.

If it's multiple choice, you'll need to know definitions and concepts. For essay exams, focus on your understanding of all the concepts presented, with examples in mind.

12. Quiz yourself.

If you think about and create actual exam questions, you will likely become more familiar with what you need to study and, in the meantime, familiarize yourself with the type of language that will be on the exam. Draft potential exam questions and quiz yourself so that you can set expectations of what you need to focus on.

13. Reorganize your notes.

Evaluate and reorganize your notes into what's important, outlining important concepts, formulas dates and definitions so they're easy to understand.

14. Teach classmates.

Learning by teaching is a method that really works! If you work with a study buddy and explain concepts to one another, you're re-learning the material all over again. It's a great way to reinforce what you've learned and help someone in the meantime!

15. Rotate your focus.

Switching up your subjects is a helpful way to learn everything for your exams while preventing burnout on one topic. Make sure to switch it up *before* your eyes glaze over! That way, you can keep studying for longer periods of time while maintaining your focus.

16. Color code it.

Create a system that allows you to color code material that's going to be on the exam by what's most important, less important, etc. This will help you focus on the most pertinent information and prioritize the material.

17. Visualize.

If you're a visual learner, it can help to create mind maps or diagrams to visualize how the concepts you're learning relate to one another. This is especially beneficial when learning concepts that build upon the understanding of one another, like in science courses.

18. Make it fun.

It's easier to focus if you adapt to studying by quizzing yourself, creating acronyms or rewarding yourself for a job well done. Create a game plan – literally – that allows you to accomplish tasks and be rewarded for each.

For example, why not reward yourself with a piece of chocolate after you've accomplished a new chapter or allow yourself five minutes of free time for every chunk of material you digest?