



Academic Support Center

Math Test Preparation Tips

The following strategies will help you effectively prepare for math tests. Although it often seems impossible to score high on math tests, these tips can help you to do well on your next exam.

Strategies for Math Tests

- The best way to learn and master math concepts is through repetition and practice. First master fundamental concepts and formulas then practice as many problems as possible.
- Practice problems that relate to each concept you might be tested on. Take time also to practice difficult problems.
- Take time to work through problems. However, if you're unable to set a problem up, ask your teacher, a tutor, or another student.
- Practice problems set up a variety of ways since questions are often set up in confusing ways to test your knowledge. This will also help you learn how to use numerous types of formulas.
- Write down all the formulas you must know on a single sheet of paper and memorize these formulas.
- Many students write down the formulas they will have to use on a test in the margins or opposite side of the test immediately after receiving it. This provides a quick reference.
- Since many questions contain more than one part, carefully read instructions in each part.
- If possible, estimate the correct answer before working out a problem. If your answer is nothing like what you expected, it may be useful to double-check your work to ensure your figures were correct.
- You must show the steps you took to get a final answer on math tests. You can always go back and review the steps you took if you're unsure of an answer, and teachers frequently provide partial credit on incorrect answers when you show your work.
- Never ignore confusing problems. If you have no idea where to begin, still attempt to work out the problem. Do not erase your work since your teacher might reward you with partial credit.
- If time permits, review your final answers. You can even re-solve problems to double check your work on a separate piece of paper. If after re-working problems you get new answers, look at the directions again or look for calculation errors.