



Academic Support Center

Open Book Test Preparation Tips

Although open book tests seem easy, they still can be difficult if you're not prepared.

Strategies for Open Book Tests

- Since open book tests can be more challenging than other types of tests, you must adequately prepare. Approach it like you would any other test.
- Many students do not familiarize themselves with key concepts before open book tests. Students often figure that they can simply look up answers. However, open book tests usually cover more information and take longer to complete than traditional types of tests. You'll run out of time if you rely on your book for every answer. It is also helpful to become familiar with the book you're permitted to use for the exam.
- You can greatly benefit by writing down important facts or information on a separate sheet of paper right after getting the test. This will decrease the time you spend using the book. It is very probable that you will not complete the test if you use it for every question.
- Before an open book test, identify key concepts and terms, which will more than likely appear on the test. After you've done this, locate where this information is available in the book you're permitted to use for the test. When doing this, your main concern is locating the information, not studying it. You can begin in-depth studying once you know where information can be found in the book.
- If it's permitted, highlight sections of the book where important subjects are covered. Also, write notes in the book's margins to use during the test. It is also useful to place post-it notes with important information in key sections of the book.
- During an open book test, answer the questions you are familiar with before answering ones where you need the book. This will make it possible to complete the test on time and achieve a higher score.