

# **How To Study for a Math Test**

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# Overview

- How do I get Started?
- How can I get Organized?
- I received my study guide, now what?
- How can my parents/guardians assist me?
- Test Taking Tips





# Just a Note:

- There are many strategies that could be used to prepare for an assessment. It is unnecessary to use each strategy for every test and quiz. Try each strategy and determine which one works best for you.
- The strategies listed are generally for preparing for larger assessments. However, most of the strategies can be tailored to help you prepare for smaller assessments as well.



# Getting Started

**So you just learned you are having a test in a few days? What do you do?**



- **START STUDYING NOW!**
- **Study a little each night!** This allows you to try different learning strategies and helps you not feel overwhelmed!
- **Starting to prepare in advance also allows you to see your teacher as soon as you realize you need help (and gives you time to check back in if necessary).**

# Be “In the Know”

**Even before you begin studying for a test, you should find out what the test will cover.**

- When is the test? How long is the test?
- What material will be covered on the test?
- What textbook chapters will be covered on the test?
- What kind of questions are on the test?
- What are the point values for each question? Does one type of question count for more? Is there any partial credit given?
- What resources are you able to use on the test (textbook, notes, formula sheet, calculator, etc)?
- What are the “trouble spots” of the test? What types of questions may be tricky?

# Now that you know, what now?

**Great job, now that you know what the test will cover, it's time to start preparing for the test.**

- Complete study guide(s) carefully and ahead of time.
- Have a friend/parent/teacher create problems similar to study guide
- Revisit and redo old worksheets on a separate sheet of paper
- Read chapters in textbook. It may take you 20 minutes to go through one example problem.
- Take Notes when your teacher goes over the study guides
- Make up a sheet with all the formulas you need to know and memorize all the formulas on the sheet.

# But wait, I have questions...

**Since you started preparing for your test early, you have plenty of time to ask your teacher for help.**

- Go through your notes and highlight questions. Make sure you make time to ask a teacher to help you clarify.
- Seek help from your teacher during Lunch, Fly Time, After School or Before School
- See your teacher for suggestions on “trouble spots.”
- See your teacher for their opinions on the difficult questions on test
- Make sure you know how to use your calculator. Seek help from your teacher on tips and shortcuts.

# Test Day

**Today is the day you have been working towards.**

**Relax! You have studied hard. Take your time!**

- Write down all the key formulas so if you forget them you can look back at the formula.
- Read the directions carefully and don't forget to answer all parts of the question.
- Show all your work (especially when partial credit is awarded) and write as legibly as possible.
- Even if you know the final answer is wrong, don't erase your work because you may receive partial credit.
- Check over your test after you are done with it. Redo the problem on a separate piece of paper and see if you come up with the same answer the second time around.
- Look for careless mistakes.

# It's Test Day and I'm Nervous

**Test anxiety is when you excessively worry about doing well on a test.**

- Get a good night's sleep before the test.
- Stay relaxed, if you begin to get nervous take a few deep breaths slowly to relax yourself and then get back to work.
- If you don't understand the directions on the test, ask the teacher to explain it to you.
- Skim through the test so that you have a good idea how to pace yourself. Do the simple questions first to help build up your confidence for the harder questions.
- Don't worry about how fast other people finish their test; just concentrate on your own test.
- If you don't know a question skip it for the time being (come back to it later if you have time).

# The Next Day!

**Thought you were done? No way! Now you need to find out the results of your hard work!**

- When you get your test back look it over and make sure that there are no grading mistakes.
- Look over the test and make sure that you understand your mistakes. If you don't know the answer to a question, look it up, ask a classmate or ask the teacher.
- If the teacher reviews the test in class, be sure to take notes on what the teacher wanted for an answer on the questions/problems that you got wrong.
- If you aren't satisfied with your grade, go to your instructor and see if the assessment can be re-assessed.
- Save the test as study material for future assessments.