

Strategies for Math Exams and Similar Problem-Solving Activities

Practice: You learn math by doing math

The best way to study for a math exam is to practice. Re-do old problems, answer questions from your textbook, and complete practice tests.

Brain Dump: Write it down so you don't forget

Once the exam starts, use a piece of paper to write down all the formulas and information you think you might need. You can use this sheet instead of trying to remember everything later.

Preview the Exam: Anticipate the problems

Before you start writing, read the exam carefully. Take note of what is being asked in the questions and what each question is worth. Spend more time on the questions worth more points. Plan your time so that you can answer all of the questions.

Start Easy: And move on when stuck

Start with the questions you know how to answer and build your confidence. Indicate what questions you're answering. If you get stuck, make a note of the question and move on. You can come back to it later.

Show Your Work: Process is as important as product

The process might be right even if the answer is wrong. Show your professor how you reached the answer so that they can see what you know about the subject matter.

Answer as Much as You Can: Partial marks are better than no marks

Don't give up if you can't answer all of a multi-part question. Try answering the parts that you do know. If you get stuck, move on and come back to the question later.

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