

Getting Ready for Your Final Exam

Planning

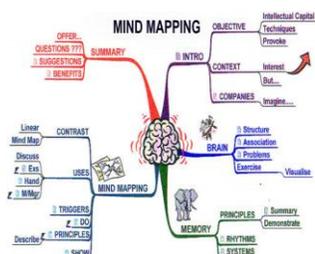
You should begin getting ready the first day of class! But for now...

- If you will be taking your test through DSPS, schedule it now!
- Final exams are scheduled for 2.5 hours. If you have 1.5X time for your test, that will mean 3 hrs and 45 minutes. If you have 2.0X, that will mean 5 hours! Consider asking your instructor about taking the test in two parts over two days. However, you will only be given a page at a time.



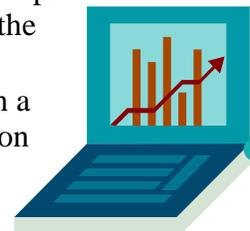
Strategies

- Review the Test Savvy Study Techniques for Math handout
- Use the strengths of your learning style.
- Practice relaxation techniques now!!
- Prepare a general “mind map” or Regional Map of each chapter. Stand at the marker boards in 17-9 (even in small groups) and solve problems from your review sheet.



This week

- Copy your instructor’s review page and take it like a test. If large, select problems from the middle of each section, if lists of problem numbers, copy some of the problems and mix them up so you can make your own test.
- Vocabulary is important! Make sure you know the difference between a ratio and a proportion, between the substitution and addition/elimination methods to solve systems of equations, or how the exponential form differs from the logarithmic form.
- Use Course Compass (My Math Lab) to take chapter tests



Next week

- Plan your brain dump: you should be able to retain about 5 items to “dump” onto your test when you receive it. Look over your errors on your tests to develop your own cues as reminders. See ideas from the Test Prep: “Brain Dump” handout.
- Don’t over-study. Plan your time in 20 minute chunks, with 5-10 minute breaks.

During the test

- If you “blank-out” on a problem, try the following:
 - If you recognize it as a specific type, write a note, “mixture” or “inequality” or “percentage” and move on to another problem. Having given your mind a focus, it will work on it while you’re on other problems.
 - Can be simplified or factored? Those steps often begin a problem.
 - If there are fractions and an equal sign, use the “clearing” method to make it look more familiar. Factor out GCFs! If it’s a linear equation, set it to $y =$. If it’s logs, change them to exponential form.

