

Math Test Taking Tips

Here are some strategies for taking math tests and exams. Good test-taking strategies can make a big difference in your grade!

- First look over the entire test. You'll get a sense of its length. Try to identify those problems you definitely know how to do right away, and those you expect to have to think about.
- Do the problems in the order that suits you!
 - Start with the problems what you know for sure you can do. This builds confidence and means you don't miss any sure points because you run out of time.
 - Then try the problems you *think* you can figure out
 - Finally, try the ones you are least sure about.
- Time is of the essence
 - Work as quickly and continuously as you can while still writing legibly and showing all your work.
 - If you get stuck on a problem, move on to another one - you can come back to the harder ones later.
- Work by the clock.
 - On a 50 minute, 100 point test, you have about 5 minutes for a 10 point question.
 - Starting with the easy questions will probably put you ahead of the clock.
 - When you work on a harder problem, spend the allotted time (e.g., 5 minutes) on that question, and if you have not almost finished it, go on to another problem.
 - Do not spend 20 minutes on a problem which will yield few or no points when there are other problems you still need to do.
- Show all your work
 - Make it as easy as possible for the Instructor to see how much you do know.
 - Try to write a well-reasoned solution.
 - If your answer is incorrect, the Instructor will generally assign partial credit based on the work you show.
- In a multiple-step problem outline the steps before actually working the problem.
- Don't give up on a several-part problem just because you can't do the first part.
 - Attempt the other part(s)
 - If the actual solution depends on the first part, at least explain how you would do it.
 - ASK YOUR PROFESSOR! She may be willing to point you in the right direction.
- Make sure you read the questions carefully, and do all parts of each problem.
- Verify your answers - does each answer make sense given the context of the problem?
- If you finish early, check every problem (that means rework everything from scratch).