

## Final Exam Study Tips

Finals can be stressful, even for the most prepared students. Here are some tips to help you succeed:

### Preparing for the Final

- Find out what your entire final exam schedule is so that you'll know how many finals you will have on each day.
- Prepare a written schedule for yourself indicating when you will study for each test. Leave some time in your schedule for exercise and relaxation, too.
- If the professor offers a study guide, use it.
- If the professor offers a review session for the exam, go to it.
- If you study well in groups, form a study group.
- Know if the final is comprehensive (covering everything since the beginning of the semester or quarter).
- Find out what kind of exam it will be. You'd study differently for a multiple-choice (Scantron) final than an essay one.
- If you have your previous exams available, scour the exams for things that you think will be on the final. Flag your notes by highlighting or using Post-It notes.
- Don't pull an all-nighter. (Our brains work best when well-rested and when we have 'nibbled' on information over time.
- If the exam is an open-book exam, this does not mean that you don't have to study at all. In fact, one of the most challenging exams I ever took as an undergrad was an open-book essay exam. Flag your textbook based on where you believe the questions will come from.

### On the Day of the Final

- Eat a meal and drink water.
- Don't overdo it with the caffeine.
- Know what to bring with you to the final. Do you need a blue book? A Scantron? (And if you need a Scantron, which specific type do you need?) A pencil? A pen?
- Are food and drinks allowed in the classroom where your final will be? Sometimes, the rules are different for exam days than other days.
- Even if you don't usually wear a watch, take one with you to the final. It's unlikely you will be able to look at your cell phone to check the time during the final.

### During the Final

- For a paper-based exam, read through the entire final exam before you start answering any questions at all. This way, you will know what you're facing.
- If you're using a Scantron and you skip a question to finish later, make sure you're answering your questions next to the correct answers.
- Keep a close eye on the time you have allotted.
- Some students benefit from answering the most difficult questions first, while others do better completing all the easier ones. Do what works for you.

### After the Final

- Do not share with other students what was on the final exam. In most universities, this is a violation of the honor code.
- Take a breath, relax, then forge ahead to the next final.