



Tips for Multiple Choice Exams

Preparing for Multiple Choice Exams

Studying for a multiple choice exam requires a special method of preparation distinctly different from preparing for an essay exam.

- o Begin Studying Early
 - x If you learn a little bit each day and allow plenty of time for repeated reviews, you will build a much more reliable long-term memory.
- o Identify and Understand What the Instructor Emphasizes
 - x Pay particular attention to fundamental terms and concepts that describe important events, concepts, and feature or tie related ideas and observations together.
- o Make Lists and Tables
 - x Concentrate on understanding multi-step processes, and on ideas, events, or objects that form natural sequences or groupings. Look for similarities and differences used to distinguish correct choices from distracters on an exam.
- o Use Your Textbook's Tools
 - x New words, concepts, and summary questions are usually at the beginning or end of a chapter (sometimes both!). Be sure to understand and review these.
 - x Do not simply memorize the book's definitions or explanations. Most instructors will rephrase things in their own words as they write exam questions, so you must be sure that you really know what the definitions mean.
- o Know Your Learning Style and Study Technique Preferences
 - x How is the course material delivered during class? Does this match your learning style? If not, find ways to study the material in the way that best matches your learning style.
- o Simulate Required Behavior
 - x If you are taking a closed book test, practice answering questions without your text or notes.
 - x Answer questions that someone else has chosen.
 - f Use a two-tiered approach to studying: Study alone first and with others second. This kind of studying is highly efficient because it allows others to pick the material, thereby exposing gaps in your knowledge--just as an exam does!

Taking Multiple Choice Exams

Even a well-prepared student can fall prey to distracters that look very similar to the correct answer. Here are a few tips to help reduce these perils:

- o Before You Begin the Exam
 - x Enter all pieces of required information on your answer sheet.
 - x Upload: flip the test over, write down key words, concepts, and ideas that are in your mind, especially if you just studied them and think you may forget.
 - x Give yourself a time budget for each section of the test.

