

Math Test Study Tips

A math test requires you to implement your mathematical knowledge regarding specific topics. You need to understand AND apply concepts related to the topics.

There are many reasons why students lose points on their math test. Here are a few of the top reasons for losing points on a math test:

1. **Directions are not followed-** Carefully read the directions and make sure you understand what the directions are asking you to do.
2. **Vocabulary confusion-** If you do not know the mathematical vocabulary that pertains to the topics on your test, you will struggle with the directions.
3. **Basic math errors-** learn your basic math facts. If you struggle with mental math, don't skip steps and be careful when you calculate.
4. **Orderly work- write** your work in a neat and orderly fashion to avoid errors.
5. **Regular practice-** practice, practice, practice. Homework is for practice. Don't work on homework just to "get through it", work on homework for understanding of the concepts.
6. **Show your work-** Do NOT try to work out problems in your head, write your work down. Partial credit is better than no credit if you make a mistake.
7. **Too much time on one problem-** If you get stuck, get as far as you can on that problem and then move on to the next problem.

To prepare for test day:

Your exam is over objectives, if you have covered six objectives then start studying by "chunks" for an hour or so a day as a countdown to test day.

Five Days before the exam: Study the first two objectives along with the associated vocabulary. Make a list of topics that are still not clear. Practice problems on ALEKS. There are chapter review problems as well as chapter tests at the end of each chapter with the solutions.(1 Hour)

Four days before the exam: Study the next two objectives along with the associated vocabulary. Practice problems on ALEKS. Make a list of topics that are still not clear. (1 Hour)

Three days before the exam: Study the last two objectives along with the associated vocabulary. Practice problems on ALEKS. These are the last topics covered recently so they should go quickly since you just had this material. Go to the library tutor or see your instructor about any topic from day 5, 4, or 3 that are still not clear. (1 Hour)

Two days before the exam: (Tutor time plus 1 Hour practicing) Instructor/Tutor time and practice on the clarified concepts on ALEKS.

One day before the exam: Look over the vocabulary, practice any topics that you still do not feel mastered.

Test Day: When you receive your test write down any formulas you will need. Carefully read directions, and write neat, complete, and show your work.

After the test: Review what you missed so that you can correct those mistakes on the final exam.