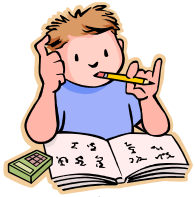
How do you study for a math test?

Helpful hints that will put you in a position to improve your performance on quizzes and tests

Throughout the Unit/Chapter:

Daily participation in class and homework completion is VITAL to being successful on quizzes and tests. It's just like an athlete in training – if I show up the morning of the marathon having only run a few miles at a time, I'm not going to make it through all 26.2 miles…

- When doing homework, think about what it is that you are doing. In other words, don't just put something on paper to say that your homework is done
- Memorize all key formulas, terms, rules, etc. Don't just learn the words, learn the meanings.
- Come in for help as soon as you start to struggle.
  - Signs of needing help:
    - You spend more time looking up answers and referring to notes than you do just doing the homework problems
    - You get most of the homework problems wrong
    - You take a quiz and score poorly
- Work to understand what is being taught in the classroom. Don't just copy down notes from the overhead or fill in worksheets without thinking.
- This means that you need to be an active participant – ask and/or answer questions during class and work with your group members to train yourself to think through the concepts being taught.



Before a Quiz or Test:

- Independent practice is KEY!
  - Copy problems from the covered sections onto a blank sheet of paper
  - Try to complete as many as you can without referring to your notes, solutions, friends, etc.
  - For problems you solve incorrectly, find another similar problem, and try the process again!
  - Remember that most review assignments/packets are not 100% comprehensive – meaning, don't rely 100% on it for your preparation.
- Review class notes/Worksheets, etc.
  - Keep in mind that what is taught to you in class is important – i.e. if your teacher had you take notes/discuss it, you ought to know it!!

**Important Note: It is a good idea to read or look over old notes, homework assignments, worksheets, etc. but you MUST understand that looking at something and understanding it is VERY DIFFERENT from starting with a blank problem and completing it ON YOUR OWN!

Remember…I could sit through a differential equations lecture and understand everything that is presented to me, but if the teacher gave me a test on it and I didn't practice, I would FAIL!!