

## Test Preparation Skills

*My choice; my responsibility; win or lose, only I hold the key to my destiny. - Elaine Maxwell*

### Strategies for your success

How do you prepare for a test? Have you ever just 'shown up' for a test and then were disappointed by the results?

Successful test preparation requires a strategy and a plan. If you make a plan and carry it out, not only will you be better prepared, but also you will feel more confident and less anxious about the test.

### Strategies for careful test preparation

- Start your test preparation early, at least several days before the test. Successful test prep involves several steps and you need sufficient time to complete each one.
- Check that you have completed every homework assignment that the test will cover. Not completing every assignment causes holes in your body of knowledge.
- Check that every problem is understood and done with integrity. Integrity means that you did not copy from the student solution manual or another student and that you re-did any problems for which you got help to guarantee that you can do them yourself!
- Review your class notes. Pay particular attention to areas you had marked for further study.
- Review the chapter summary in your textbook to make sure you understand all the key concepts. Go back to any section where you need more practice and work some of the exercises.
- Go to each section and reread the section objectives. For each objective, choose a representative problem that best typifies this objective. Write this problem on a 3x5 card, being sure to list the section and problem number where you found it. Write the answer on the back of the card. Put the 3x5 cards together to create your own practice test.
- Work the practice test you created. Check the answers with those on the backs of the cards. Go back and review the objectives of any you got wrong.
- Work out the Chapter Review and the Chapter Test. Do this in a "test" setting, if possible.
- Use all available resources to get help on topics you did not understand.

1. Use this check list to analyze how you prepared for your last test and to design a plan to prepare for your next test.

Strategy	My prep for last test	Will do before next test
Test prep started several days before the test		
Every homework assignment completed		
Every problem understood		
Class notes reviewed		
Chapter summary reviewed		
One problem chosen for each objective		
My practice test worked		
Chapter Review/Chapter Test worked		
Resources for help used		

2. To be better prepared for the next test I plan to (Choose one)

\_\_\_\_\_ continue what I've been doing

\_\_\_\_\_ make a few changes to my test prep strategies

\_\_\_\_\_ make major changes to my test prep strategies

3. List the resources available to you to support your test preparation.