



# 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!!

