

Cloues - HAH/HIST 141 - Top 20 Test Taking and Study Tip Strategies

1. Know the vocabulary of the unit or course you are studying - it makes all questions, including any stimulus based questions, easier. This is why note-taking is required before you come to class. You are now ready to THINK while in class.
2. Know general vocabulary - READ, READ, READ! This is why textbook reading is key to overall formation in the learning process.
3. Reading comprehension is everything (see #1 and #2).
4. Studying IS necessary to do well in college. If you want an "A" - work for it!
5. There is a purpose to every assignment, project, discussion, etc. your instructor will utilize in class. (ex: beginning and ending dates, mapping exercise, simulation, etc.) Make sure you understand the purpose of each assignment.
6. Pay close attention to the images, charts, political cartoons, etc. used in class - these are often the same ones used on assessments.
7. The experts say to go with your gut instinct on multiple choice questions; don't second guess yourself.
8. Don't miss class in courses where the learning is taking place through discussions, analysis of sources, etc. like in a history course. :)
9. Use almost every line provided for writing and short essay responses. Be thorough and answer the WHY question, always.
10. Process of elimination - Cross out answer choices you know to be wrong
11. Think about what was discussed in class; if it wasn't discussed, it's probably not the best answer!
12. Read the question....cover up the answer choices....think about, or write on the test what you know about the question/answer. Choose the answer choice that is most similar to what you wrote down.
13. Read dates, titles, captions, etc. for stimulus-based questions and USE them to help with context. Context is everything (along with reading)! ;)
14. Read the questions first in a stimulus based question to know what to "look" for in the source/chart/graph, etc. This will save you time on AP/ACT type tests.
15. Make mind maps to organize key concepts, vocabulary, people, legislation, reform movements, etc. Organizing information in a way that makes sense to you is similar to talking it out - it helps synthesize the information.
16. Study WITH people - form a study group as students have different perspectives and studying with someone else may make you think differently about an idea or topic. Experts say when you teach someone or talk something out, it helps you understand concepts better.
17. Use videos to help you process information. To actually learn something to then be able to apply, analyze, and evaluate it, you have to hear it, see it, etc. multiple times.
18. Ask for help. This is a life skill - know when and how to ask for help when needed.
19. Repetition - With block scheduling (similar to college), studying just a little bit each night is critical to overall success in the learning process. (This is the reading/notes part of HAH.)
20. Do your best, and forget the rest. We are just trying to get a little bit better each day. Go Saints!

