

Academic Skills

Preparing for Tests

- **Study in small groups**
 - Make sure your group has only students who are serious about studying. At least some of them should be at your level or better.
 - Go over as many problems as you can (old homework problems, unassigned problems in the text, problems on old exams). Don't leave a problem until you're convinced you could do it by yourself.
 - If no one in the group understands a concept, seek outside help. Consensus on an incorrect answer is convivial, but still incorrect.
 - Brainstorm things you could be asked and answers you might give.
 - Leave the beer in the refrigerator until you're done studying.
- **Condense your knowledge** onto an index card as if you were taking a trip to the moon and need to know everything when you get there. If the test is open-book, bring the index card with you.
- **Don't stay up all night studying.** Get good sleep the night before the exam. If that's not possible, nap before the exam, or at least rest.
- **Set up a backup system for your alarm clock.** Set a second alarm, or arrange for a wake-up call from a friend.
- **Bring everything you need to the exam:**
 - textbook/lecture notes if the exam is open book
 - paper and several pencils with erasers
 - calculator with extra batteries
 - allowed handbooks and tables (such as steam tables)
 - allowed class handouts
 - crib sheets (if allowed)