

Taking Objective Tests

Multiple Choice, True/False, Matching Questions

Preparing For Objective Tests

- Study facts and details – use flashcards, word lists, and mnemonic devices.
- Use your notes, close your notes, and then make yourself recall the info.
- Use online resources from your texts and review questions to test yourself.
- If possible, study from old tests.
- Find ways to apply information: when using notecards, ask yourself the following questions: “What is the relationship between _____ and _____?” “What does _____ have to do with _____?” “How are _____ and _____ the same/different?” “What is the opposite of _____?” “What are the characteristics of _____ and _____?”
- Study for small increments of time.
- Study with a friend who is doing well in the class or request a tutor.

Taking Objective Tests

- Get there early and claim your spot!
- Quit studying 15 minutes before the test!
- ‘Mind dump’ any info you might need during the test.
- ‘Personalize’ the test: read directions for each section. Decide which you will do first and last. Assign times to each section. Separate questions into 3 categories: know, pretty sure, no clue.
 - Do ‘know’ first: do not change these answers!
 - On ‘pretty sure’, cross off answers that you know are wrong. If you still don’t know the answer, save it for later.
 - On ‘no clue’, cover up the answers, and read the question or statement using your own words. Answer or complete it without looking at the answer choices. Then go through the answers one by one to see which one most closely fits.
- Save time at the end of the test to do the ones you skipped. Use the information in other questions to trigger your memory.
- Always correct old tests so you don’t make the same mistakes twice, and so you learn the types of questions your professor uses.
- If possible, have notes open while going over test so you can see what you are missing when you are studying.

Quick Tips for Objective Tests

- Use the questions/review at end of chapter and make sure you know all the details that tie in with those questions.
- If there is an online resource with your text, use it.
- Anticipate the answer. Use your hand to cover the answers and complete the statement in your own words. Go through the answers one at a time and choose the one that most closely matches yours.
- When studying with notecards compare and contrast the information on the cards, instead of just memorizing.
- Get away from your notes and make yourself recall and apply theories, ideas, etc., at odd times during the day and in different places.
- Don't get stuck on one question. If you have a habit of doing that, you may need to assign times not only to sections, but also to individual questions.
- Save the questions that you do not have a clue about until the end; you may get a clue from previously answered questions.
- Re-word the 'stem' (the question or statement) to words that make sense to you. Then try each of the answer choices to see which one most closely fits.
- For test anxiety: make yourself put away your notes and flashcards at least 15 minutes before the test begins. You will not forget what you have learned, but you will give yourself a few minutes to compose yourself and clear your head.