

## **Mechanical Engineering**

---

### **How to Ace Tests**

#### **Before the Exam**

When the exam is announced make sure you plan ahead.

- Mark the day in your calendar!
- Note what will be covered, including if the exam is cumulative or subject based
  - Most professors will go over what will be covered, as well as list subjects in the syllabus, but if you're not sure, ask!
- Make a study plan!
  - Plan out what subjects you'll study which day
  - Plan practice problems to go over, important fact to memorize, textbook chapters to read, etc
  - Plan for days to go over all the subjects at once and check your knowledge
  - If you have multiple exams close together make sure you schedule enough time to study for all of them
- If you require accommodations put in the paper work for them as soon as possible, it may take awhile to process

The night before the exam make sure you have everything ready,

- Make sure all the resources you need are ready
  - Charge your calculator
  - Charge your computer if your test is online or requires an online program
  - Take your equation sheet or textbook if allowed
- Pack extra pencils, make sure they are sharpened, have led, have an eraser etc.
- Review the material, especially the topics you're the least comfortable with

Day of the exam, make sure you're mentally prepared.

- Eat a good sized meal before the exam, food is brain power. However, don't eat too much especially if your exam is after lunch, it might make you sleepy.
- Get to the exam room early, this will give you time to mentally prepare
- Keep calm! Let your knowledge carry you and know you prepared the best you can

#### **During the Exam**

Exams can be stressful, but there are a lot of things you can do to try and minimize the stress.

- Read everything very carefully, make sure you understand all the questions and instructions, if you are confused on anything make sure you ask for clarification
- If you come across a question you're not sure about, skip it! You can always come back to it later, but you don't want to spend too much time trying to figure it out and run out of time for question you know how to answer
- Double check your work! If your answers don't make sense try to find the error
- Keep an eye on the time and budget enough time for each question
- If you start running out of time try to put something on each question, you may get partial credit for things like writing out the equations you would use of the general process required to solve the problem
- Just do your best! It sounds cliché but trying your hardest and doing what you can will get you much further than giving

### **After the Exam**

Looking back on your exam can help you prepare for your next one!

- Look at what you didn't do well on, spend extra time study these topics
- Look at what you did well on, make sure you remember these topics, don't forget about them, you may need them for the next topics you learn or later exams
- Think about the things that helped you, the things that calmed you down, and the things that didn't work or made you more stressed. Use this reflection to decide what you need to change or keep for the next exam
- If you're not sure why you missed points ask your professor or TA
- Redo the exam, this will help you practice the topics more keep the information solid in your mind

### **Study Tips**

There are a lot of ways to study, the same study tactics don't work for everyone so it's important to find the tactics that work best for you. Below are some tactics you can try.

- Write a cheat sheet, even if you're not allowed to use it in the exam it will help you review important information and find the topics you need to focus on
- Mark important pages in your textbook and label them, this will make it easy to find important information fast and make it easier to study
- Make flashcards, this can help you memorize quick facts, vocabulary, equations etc
- Work on practice problems, some professors will even give you practice exams to work on
- Form a study group, this can help you bounce questions off your classmates, if you don't know something there's a good chance a classmate will, if not as your professor or TA