

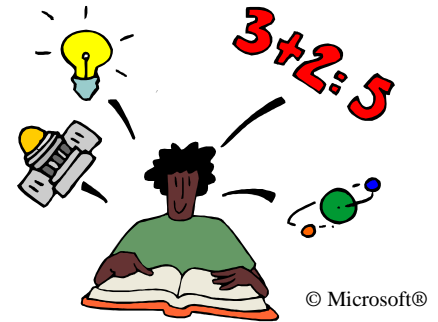
Learning Café Quick Study Tips

TEST PREPARATION: MORE THAN JUST MEMORIZING

Sometimes, students get into trouble because they do not prepare adequately for the different types of questions they may encounter on a test. In fact, there are various levels & types of test questions that require a slightly different way of studying.

Prepared students anticipate facing any of them!

Different content tends to lend itself to different questioning strategies (multiple choice, short answer, matching, true/false, or essay); however, almost any type of material can be tested using any question type if care is taken when constructing the test questions.



In order of frequency, here are some types of questions you can expect:

Memory Questions

What Are They?

These questions ask you to recall something directly from your text, notes, & class materials: factual items like vocabulary definitions, names, dates, descriptions of concepts, research studies, theories, researchers, etc.

Ex.: Identify and define 4 basic family forms which place emphasis on the marital bond.

How Do You Study For Them?

Students missing questions like these need to spend time clarifying terms & what they mean, understanding case studies & their conclusions, & memorizing concepts & definitions. Many texts highlight important terms & have objective statements at the beginning of each chapter that help you identify important vocabulary & central concepts. Use the objective statements as a checklist. Don't just ask yourself if you know the answer, challenge yourself to write down the answer. Study cards work as well. Create cards for all questions you think the teacher might ask. Write the answers on the back of the cards & drill yourself on them.

Comprehension Questions

What Are They?

Comprehension questions ask you to show you understand concepts by talking about them in different ways than have been seen or heard in the text or in class. Students commonly go wrong on these questions if they have focused only on memorizing terms & definitions without actually being clear about what they mean.

Ex., Compare & contrast the processes of mitosis & meiosis.

[Note: It would not be sufficient to simply define *mitosis* & *meiosis* in response to this question. The instructor will be looking that you can clearly distinguish between these separate processes.]

How Do You Study For Them?

Be sure you can explain ideas in your own words. Talk to yourself. Explain the ideas to a friend or study group partner. Ask yourself how one concept is different from or like another. Explain relationships between concepts to yourself.

Application Questions

What Are They?

These questions ask you to identify a key concept, vocabulary term, or behavior by giving you an example of it that you have never encountered before. You are then asked to name the concept/term/behavior based on what you have learned in the course (or vice versa).

Ex.: Janice is diagnosed as having breast cancer & faces surgery, which she dreads. She knows that leaving the malignancy could be fatal.

The type of behavioral conflict she is facing is an

- a) approach-approach conflict.
- b) approach-avoidance conflict.
- c) avoidance-avoidance conflict.
- d) anger reaction conflict.

or vice versa

Ex.: The example given below which illustrates an avoidance-avoidance conflict is . . .

How Do You Study For Them?

Read text & notes carefully to identify the distinguishing characteristics for each term, concept, or behavior you learn about. If there's an example, study it. Create your own personal example & check it against those characteristics. Record your own example for each term, concept, or behavior.

Evaluation Questions

What Are They?

Evaluation questions ask you to make a judgment. They ask you to select the *best* or *most applicable* theory or concept. They ask you to judge the usefulness of a theory, a treatment or a procedure.

Ex.: Perhaps the most vital factor in communication of information or instructions to others is

- a) proper choice of words.
- b) clear diction.
- c) feedback.
- d) an astute mind.

How Do You Study For Them?

Prepare by asking yourself evaluation questions as you study: "What is this good for?" "What is it not good for?" "What is missing?" "When would you use this?" "What's the best method?" "Why?" "Which factor is most important?" These questions are effective if you meet with a study group, after group members have prepared for the memory & comprehension levels on their own.

*For more information on any of the suggestions given here, please visit the Learning Café, located in the library (CE1340) / 403-382-6952 / learningcafe@lethbridgecollege.ca
Or sign up for a Student Success Workshop!*