



# Studying for Math Tests

## Learning How to Study for the Test

Answer this important question.

1. Do you think your teacher is trying to trick you or ruin your day by giving you a test? \_\_\_\_\_

If you answered YES to the question above, then it's time to rethink your test preparation methods. To explore how well you prepare for tests, answer these questions.

2. Do you think you know what is going to be on your next math test before you see it? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many questions do you think will be on the test? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What kind of questions will be on the test? True/False? Multiple choice? Fill in the blank? Essay? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many lessons will the test cover? \_\_\_\_\_

You actually have the answers to all these questions in

- Classroom discussions
- Homework assignments
- Pop quizzes
- Previous tests
- Your notes
- Your textbook

When you study for a math test, remember that everything you need to know has been given to you. There are a few tasks you can do on a day-to-day basis that will help you.

- Go to class every day and take good notes. Your notes should tell you what the teacher thinks is important.
- Do your homework assignments daily. The exercises your teacher assigns show you what sort of problems you will likely see on the test.

If you have done the day-to-day work, then you are ready to identify important concepts, learn them, and recall them on test day.

To get started, fill out the **Pretest Study Organizer**.

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# Pretest Study Organizer

## Sources (items needed to study effectively)

- Textbook     Class Notes     Homework     Workbook  
 Handouts     Old Tests     Old Quizzes     Project(s)

## Test Format (based on previous tests, quizzes, and homework questions)

QUESTION TYPE	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS EXPECTED
True/False	_____
Multiple Choice	_____
Standardized Test Format (SAT)	_____
Fill in the blank	_____
Essay	_____

## Math Topic Analysis

TOPIC	SOURCES NEEDED	KNOWLEDGE RATING (CIRCLE ONE)
_____	_____	Expert / Need Practice / Don't know it
_____	_____	Expert / Need Practice / Don't know it
_____	_____	Expert / Need Practice / Don't know it
_____	_____	Expert / Need Practice / Don't know it
_____	_____	Expert / Need Practice / Don't know it
_____	_____	Expert / Need Practice / Don't know it

## Special Study Resources

- Library     Computer Lab     Study Group Meeting

The Pretest Study Organizer helps you to

- organize all the materials you need for review
- make informed guesses on the type and number of questions that will be on the test
- list all the topics that were covered since the last test
- rate yourself on how well you know the material
- know which topics need the most attention

# Pretest Study Organizer, continued

For every test, you have a limited number of hours to study. The key to using that time wisely is knowing your areas of weakness.

Devote most of your time to working on the topics you don't know. Use your textbook, class notes, and homework to understand the topic. Then work enough practice problems to feel comfortable by test time.

## Studying for Content and Method

Here's another important question.

6. Have you ever missed questions on a math test even though you thought you knew the material pretty well? \_\_\_\_\_

If you answered YES to question 6, you are not alone. Doing well on a math test involves knowing the content of the lessons and knowing the methods for finding the right answer.

Study both components to be successful. Respond to these statements about your current study methods with YES or NO.

- 7. I reread the lessons before the test. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. I review my class notes before the test. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. I study all the handouts and quizzes before the test. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. I review my homework assignments before the test. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. I give myself a practice test. \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. I rework the assigned homework problems. \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. I work more problems from topics that give me trouble. \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. I compare the steps I use to the steps used in the textbook examples. \_\_\_\_\_

Statements 7–10 are about studying math content. If you answered YES to those, then you are using your sources well.

# Pretest Study Organizer, continued

Use these study tips for increasing your math understanding.

## Study Tips for Math Understanding

- Reread lessons or topics in your textbook (concentrate on those areas that give you the most trouble).
- Use your class notes to recall classroom discussions and to see which concepts your teacher thinks are important to know.
- Review your quizzes to understand the type of questions you will see on the test.
- Analyze your homework to find the topics that give you the most trouble.

Statements 11–14 are about doing the math. If you answered YES to these questions, then you are sharpening your problem-solving skills.

Use these study tips for improving your math performance.

## Study Tips for Math Performance

- Give yourself a practice test.
- Rework your homework assignments (concentrate on areas that give you the most trouble).
- Self-correct your work. Compare the steps you use to the examples in your textbook. Also, check your steps against any corrections your teacher has made to your homework.

Preparing for tests is a long-term commitment. If you go to class and follow the strategies given here, you should see better results. Also, you may find yourself calm and confident on test day.