



TAKING MATH TESTS

1. **Read the instructions carefully before doing anything.** Make sure you understand what you are being asked to do. There is nothing worse than getting your test back with a low grade and finding that you provided an excellent answer for the wrong question.
2. **Write down any formulas you had to commit to memory.** List them on the back of your test so that they are handy for your reference; this way you won't have to search for or recall the formula when you're under pressure while solving a particular problem.
3. **Inspect each problem before trying to solve it.** (1) List all relevant formulae, principles, and assumptions related to the question (2) Identify what information is required in order to get the question correct. Do you have to show work, convert to decimal form, and so on?
4. **Be clear in writing each step of the solution.** This makes rechecking easier and helps the grader easily follow your solution.
5. **Perform each step carefully** For instance, watch those negative signs! Be sure you haven't divided where you needed to multiply, or vice-versa.
6. **Never leave a test early.** Always check your work. When you go back over the problems, check each step of your solution as you rework the problem.
7. **Double-check every reading you make from a table of values.**
8. **Use your calculator twice to double-check your answer.**
9. **If you can't begin to solve a problem, go to the next problem.** There might be something on the next problem that will help you solve the previous problem.

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