

Test Wise Study Habits



Success in school starts long before you have to take any test. How would you rate yourself on these factors? Put a check in the box that best describes your habits.

Never

Sometimes

Usually

Always

	<i>Never</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Usually</i>	<i>Always</i>
I am in my seat and ready to learn when class begins.				
I am prepared for class with the appropriate materials (pencils, paper, books, etc.).				
I complete my homework and bring it back to class.				
I pay attention in class and ask questions when I do not understand.				
When I miss a question, I make sure I find out the correct answer.				
I complete class assignments and take notes as needed.				
I participate in class discussions.				
I listen to others' ideas and respect different opinions.				
I work cooperatively with other students when assigned to groups.				
I set learning goals for myself and use my time wisely.				
I use the resources in the school to help me learn (such as the library, tutoring opportunities, computer programs, etc.).				

Strategies for greater success:



1. You can change your bad habits! Get rid of all of the "sometimes" and "never" on your list. Change so you have more "usually" and "always."
2. Make success in school a priority. Learning is your job and requires your commitment and attention.
3. Find out what you do not know. Make an appointment with the teacher or get a study friend. Don't stay in the dark!
4. If school is not a positive place for you, explore ways to help make it better. The most important part of your success is your effort.

Test Wise Before a Test



Getting ready for tests means being prepared all along. However, there are some special things you can do to insure greater success on every test.

Never

Sometimes

Usually

Always

	<i>Never</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Usually</i>	<i>Always</i>
Do you know exactly what material the test will cover?				
Do you know what kind of test you will have? (multiple choice, true-false, essay, etc.)				
Are you clear about the kind of details you must know? (dates, facts, special procedures, etc.)				
Do you study for tests by reviewing notes, readings, homework and classwork papers?				
Do you prepare over several days and use more than one review session?				
Do you study with a friend (study group), asking each other what is most important to know?				
Do you get plenty of rest the night before and have a good breakfast on the day of the test?				
Do you gather your materials so that you come to the test on time with pencils, paper, etc. ready?				
As you begin the test, do you read the directions carefully and ask for clarification when necessary?				

Strategies for greater success:



1. Get rid of the "nevers" and "sometimes" from this list.
2. Take action to be "test-ready" by finding out exactly what will be on your tests. Make time to review and study.
3. Ask your teacher (or a friend) to explain anything you do not understand. Don't be satisfied not to know.
4. Believe in yourself. You are the key to your own success!

Test Wise Taking Tests



Here are some strategies that will help you become a better multiple choice test taker. Keep these ideas in your notebook and review them before your tests.

Remember: Tests are supposed to let you and your teacher know what you have learned and what you still need to work on. Do your part by paying attention in class, completing all assignments, asking questions when you do not understand, and reviewing before the test. Do your best and don't waste your energy or your time worrying.

- As you begin the test, take time to think about the "big picture." Remind yourself of what the test is all about.**

Picture yourself doing well on the test. In your mind take a moment to identify the main ideas that you have studied and the details which go with each main topic.

- Read the questions carefully. Ask yourself, "What is this question trying to find out?" If there are charts, graphs, or pictures, look carefully at them. How do they relate to the question you are trying to answer?**
- If there is a vocabulary word in the question that you do not know, try to figure it out by reading the rest of the question and the answer choices.**
- Try to figure out each answer before you look at the multiple choices. Next, see if your answer matches. If it does not match, reread the question and check your work.**
- If you do not know which answer choice is correct, eliminate the ones you believe are wrong. Then work backwards to see which of the answer choices that are left work best to answer the question.**

Review the Test Wise ideas for each subject area. They will help you think about using dates to eliminate answer choices in social studies or identifying partial answers in mathematics questions that have two parts.

- If you have no idea what the answer should be or how to figure it out, skip the question. You can come back to it when you have finished the questions that you do know.**
- Use time wisely. Don't day dream or spend too long stuck on one question.**

Best Strategy: Be prepared!



Test Wise Taking Action



Now you really have to go to work. Look at the questions you missed and the reasons you identified. Check the boxes beside the tips you think might help you.

Strategies for greater success:

1 I didn't understand the question.

- Highlight words you don't know and ask about their meanings.
- Read the question aloud and try to get a picture in your mind of what is being asked.
- Ask a friend or your teacher to talk through the question and what it means.
- Reread the test item. Identify parts you misread. Next time, slow down!

2 I thought I had this right.

- If you got partial credit, identify why your answer was incomplete.
- If multiple choice, review all of the answers. Why was another choice better than yours?
- Talk about why these possible choices were given on multiple choice items.
- Underline key words. Rephrase the question and ask the teacher if your idea is right.

3 I studied this but forgot.

- Make notes as you study. Match formulas to pictures and define special vocabulary.
- Review over several days. Practice what you know will be tested. Quiz each other.
- Review problem solving strategies. Find several ways to figure out sample problems.
- Study with a friend. If you don't understand, don't wait until test time to get help.

4 I have no clue about this.

- Get help! Ask your teacher to explain about the content or why you missed the item.
- Check back in your notes or textbook for information about this.
- Ask about anything that is unclear. Take charge; don't wait for others to tell you.

5 I ran out of time and didn't try this.

- Don't waste time when you don't know. Move on; answer what you can and return later.
- Pace yourself on a test. If all questions do not count the same, adjust your time.

6 I made a careless mistake.

- Are your careless mistakes similar (ex. number facts)? Watch out for this!
- Use your scratch paper to work problems before checking the answer choices.
- If you finish before the time is up, go back and check yourself.



Two best strategies:

- Do your best.
- Don't give up.