Test Taking Strategies
Before, During, and After the Test

Tests measure your course progress for the instructor, provide you with personal feedback, and count toward a significant portion of your grade. Prepare in advance to test at your best.

**Before the Test**

**Gather Study Tools**
- This includes notes, homework assignments, past quizzes, tests, and any other resources.
- Consider forming a study group and attend review sessions offered by your instructor.
- Talk to your instructor to determine the test format (Multiple Choice, True/False, Essay, Short Answer or a combination of all three). This will influence how you study for the test.

**Create a Study Plan**
- Determine how much material you need to study and plan to review over an extended period of time. Visit our website at [http://go.osu.edu/odi-tutor](http://go.osu.edu/odi-tutor) to download a 5 Day Study Plan.

**Avoid Test Anxiety**
- Do not cram at the last minute. Cramming leads to a false sense of mastery. In the end, lack of preparation can lead to anxiety during the test.
- Get 7-8 hours of sleep the night before your test. Among other things, sleep can improve concentration and memory.
- Food is the fuel your body needs for energy. Do not miss any meals the day of your exam.
- Wear comfortable shoes and clothing. Avoid unnecessary discomfort.
- Double check to make sure you have what you need for the test; writing utensils, a calculator, and any other resources you are permitted to use.
- Arrive at the test site early. Try to get a seat away from windows, doors, and other distractions.

**During the Test**

- Think positive thoughts.
- Always write your name on the test.
- If not provided, take time to jot down formulas or lists you have memorized for the test.
- Flip through the pages to determine how many questions you need to complete. Estimate how long you have to complete each question.
- Read all of the directions thoroughly.
- Mark and skip questions you cannot answer right away and come back to them later.
- Use extra time at the end of the test to check answers and complete the questions you skipped.

**After the Test**

- What was your grade on the test? If necessary, how can you improve your grade?
- Which questions did you get wrong? What was the questions format?
- Which concepts were easiest and most difficult? Why?
- How will you study differently for the next test?

For additional study skills resources and program information, visit the ODI Tutoring Program website at [http://go.osu.edu/odi-tutor](http://go.osu.edu/odi-tutor).