

## GOOD TEST-PREP ADVICE FROM ACTUAL CARLETON STUDENTS

- As good as it may feel to finish a test, hand it in, and bolt out the door to mid-term-break bliss, it helps me if I **stay put and check over my answers** or read my essays for grammar one last time. Then, I won't kick myself later for making **stupid mistakes**. On essay tests, it helps me to jot down a **very preliminary outline** so that I have some sense of direction.--Mya
- **Start reviewing early** (if possible), and specifically for chemistry, **focus on practice problems** instead of the readings, and make sure that you **know the concepts**. For taking any test, make sure to **look at all of the problems/questions** instead of getting stuck, and if you do get stuck, write down everything you can/know.—Maraia
- **Space out your studying** in small parts so your brain can absorb it all.—Pete
- Make sure you **look over the information the night before** and for a few minutes the next morning **so your brain can process it** and you're not just relying on your cramming ability.—Adam
- If your textbook has **study questions or review questions**, use them. They're a great way to **focus on some of the more relevant** topics in the chapter. Relate difficult concepts to something you understand. This will help provide a framework for thinking about the difficult concept.—Greg
- Make a "**cheat sheet**" as if the professor were going to allow you to have one piece of paper with anything helpful written on it. The **act of just summarizing everything** and writing it down again **puts it really clearly in my mind** even if you aren't really allowed to use the sheet.—Sara
- In an Econ test, it's really important to **list what assumptions you're making**. The prof can't read your mind, so make sure you list the assumption/condition. Also, make sure your answer passes the **common sense check**. If your calculations give you something that seems really unrealistic, there's a good chance that it's wrong.—Jake
- **Study everything leading up** to the day of the test but then **review it again** to freshen up the material on the morning of the test, and **writing out the problems I have with the material** and then focusing on them.--Wil
- Make a **study group**. It's really helpful to get together with a couple of friends and brainstorm. Go over any suggested material or **practice problems**--just because it's optional does not mean that it is not helpful. Don't stress out. **Cramming often makes you more confused**. Be confident in what you do know.—Amanda
- Always **read through the entire test** before putting pencil or pen to paper!—Cailey
- For Calc-- If you think you'll have trouble finishing the test on time, **practice doing problems** in your textbook (even ones not assigned!) to **get more comfortable** and quicker at recognizing and solving problems.—Ryeon
- Do your homework as it is assigned, so you **won't have to hurry to learn everything right before the test**. **Watch your time** as you take the test; make sure you get to as much of it as you can, and then go back and review your answers.—Becca

*For more nifty tips like these, visit the Write Place (2<sup>nd</sup> floor Scoville) or your friendly Prefect. Sponsored by the Academic Support Center.*