

Essay Test Preparation

Long - term preparation

- 📖 Read the course description and syllabus.
- 📖 Write down the course goals and topics and any repeated themes.
- 📖 Write down any assumptions and biases that may be either stated or implied.
- 📖 As you read assignments and listen to lectures and discussions, ask yourself how the ideas presented relate to these themes.
- 📖 Learn as much as you can about the content and grading criteria of upcoming tests from your professor. For example, how important is style and grammar?

Short - term preparation

- 📖 A week or two before the test, look over your notes and the chapter headings of your readings. Generate a list of **major topics** for the material covered.
- 📖 Note any relationships among the topics. In a history course. For example, you might find that two political movements are similar. Your instructor could easily ask you to compare and contrast these movements on an essay test. It sometimes helps to picture such relationships by creating a **chart** of the related elements.

Summarize

- 📖 For each major topic, create a **summary sheet** of all the relevant factual data that relates to that topic.
- 📖 Review actively: integrate notes, text, and supplementary information into diagrams, charts, outlines, tables, or simply written paragraph summaries of the information.
- 📖 Use your own words: make these summary sheets personally meaningful. Show them to your professor to make sure you're on the right track.

Review Summary Sheets

- 📖 Use these relationship charts and summary sheets to generate a **list of possible essay questions**.
- 📖 **Outline answers** to as many of these questions as time permits.
- 📖 Review information with a friend. What you don't recall, they might!