

General Math Study Tips

Here are some math study tips:

- **Read carefully.** In math, you must always read slowly, and it may be necessary to read a problem many times before it begins to make sense to you.
- **Think with pencil and scrap paper.** Always have pencil in hand and scratch paper ready and use them when you read and study math. Even though an example may be worked out completely in the book, work it out yourself on scrap paper.
- **Ask questions when necessary.** Although you are encouraged to try the homework problems on your own, you must never forget to ask questions!
- **Listen in class.** That means NO SLEEPING!!!
- **Stick with a problem.** Don't become frustrated if a topic or problem may completely baffle you at first. If you don't seem to be making any progress after working on a problem for some time, put it aside and try it again later.
- **Take time to reflect.** To learn math well, you must take time to do some reflective thinking about material covered during the last few days or weeks. When it's time for the final exam, you will be glad that you did this!
- **Be neat and accurate.** Keep your work well organized and have a special section of your notebook for mathematics.
- **Do your work on time.** You must do your homework regularly and make up the work when you are absent. Do not wait until the last minute to do your work and then rush through it.

Also remember this:

- Do not try to memorize mathematics by memorizing examples.
- Math is a lot of fun as long as you understand what is going on, but hopefully by following some of these tips, you will be able to understand!
- Do not sit and watch your instructor do the work for you!

Homework Tips

Here are some math homework tips:

- Review the textbook and lecture notes
- Do your homework neatly by writing down every step
- Make sure you understand every step in a problem. Make sure to ask questions if you don't. Finish every problem successfully **no matter what!**
- Recall, write down, or make note cards for important concepts
- Don't get behind in your homework

Test Taking Tips

Here are some tips for taking math tests:

- Get a good night's sleep and eat properly. (So you don't end up SLEEPING through the test!)
- Do not schedule an appointment immediately after the test. It is important that you have no other concerns but the exam.

- Do not study right up until test time. Take a short time before the test to relax.
- If you feel yourself panicking on a test, try to concentrate on the problems. Pause a few moments, try to relax, and clear your mind.
- Do not be distracted by other students. Don't worry if anyone else leaves before you do.

Here is a suggested strategy to use for taking a math test:

- Start the test by jotting down any formulas or key ideas that you don't want to forget. Then, make sure to read the directions carefully, and ask the instructor about any questions that you may have about the directions.
- Next, skim through the test and do the problems that are quick, easy, and you know how to do.
- Finally, attempt the problems that you have some idea about solving, and if you don't know how to solve a problem, at least write down all that you know about the problem. That includes any formulas, facts, or procedures.
- Make sure to check over your work if you finish early.

Other Strategies for Success

Here are some other strategies for success in math:

- Learn relaxation techniques and practice them.
- Remember to give yourself time to learn.
- Get to know other people in the class and form a study group.
- Take advantage of the instructor's office hours or other availability.
- Go to the Academic Skills Center until you find a tutor who you understand.
- Practice your test taking skills.

Problem Solving Tips

Here are some things to remember about problem solving:

- A solution never comes immediately, even for mathematicians
- It is the one who has **tried** to solve the problem who learns the most about problem solving. If you don't at least try, you won't learn at all! You haven't failed at a problem until you have stopped trying to solve it!
- Do expect to do the problem all in your head.
- There is more than one way to solve a problem. Your way is just as good as anyone else's!

Here are some tips to solve problems:

- Draw a picture, diagram or sketch
- Write down your steps in an ordered way
- Look for patterns
- Break the problem down into smaller pieces
- Try to think of a general rule or principle that may apply to the problem
- Write a mathematical sentence or question