

## COLLEGE TEST TAKING: PLAYING THE GAME

### Pre-game Strategy

- Be organized and make sure you have all \_\_\_\_\_ needed for the exam.
- Review your \_\_\_\_\_ at least three times a week to shorten the length of test prep study.
- Outline your readings for easier access to the information.
- Prepare for the type of questions to be asked (multiple choice, essay, etc.).
- Make up and practice answering \_\_\_\_\_.
- Attend any \_\_\_\_\_ that might be scheduled.
- Form study groups with classmates (limit them to five members).
- Check at the Reserve Desk for old exams that may be on file (3rd floor—Alkek Library).

Other Plays?

### Strategies for Answering Multiple Choice Questions

1. Read the entire question and \_\_\_\_\_. (Try remembering the answer before reading the options given.)
2. Eliminate obvious \_\_\_\_\_ answers.
3. Eliminate options that are similar unless "all of the above" is an option.
4. Check for grammatical inconsistencies.

Other Plays?

**To  
Change or  
Not to  
Change**

- Change your answer if you discover new

information in another question, or if you misread the question the first time.

- Go with your first impulse as a last resort.
- Incorrect answers fall into five categories: 1. carelessness 2. misinterpreting questions  
3. misreading 4. lack of information 5. not studying the material

### Essay Exams--Four Steps to Success

1. Read the question carefully.
2. Budget your time.

3. Outline the answer.
4. Write clearly and be thorough; vagueness kills.

**Other Plays?**

### **During the Game**

- Relax before you begin; nervousness before an exam is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Listen to and read \_\_\_\_\_, and ask any questions you have about them.
- Read the questions as they are, not as you would like them to be.
- Lapses of memory are ok; relax and gather your thoughts, then move on to the next question—it may "jog" your memory.

**Other Plays?**

### **Post-Game Wrap-Up**

- Make sure the marks on the scantron add up to the number of questions on the exam.
- \_\_\_\_\_ essays.
- Double check to make sure your name, student id number, and test number are on the exam.

**Other Plays?**

## **OTHER HELPFUL TEST TAKING HINTS**

### **To Avoid Stress**

- Don't \_\_\_\_\_—allow time to accomplish all of the things you have to do before the exam.
- Gather all of the materials that you need the night before the exam.

- Once in the testing room, concentrate on the points you want to remember—make sure you concentrate only on the things you have already been studying (trying to learn something you forgot about at the last minute is futile).
- Once the exam begins, copy anything you are afraid you may forget on the back of the exam (be sure to ask if you can write on the test).
- \_\_\_\_\_ panicky or obnoxiously overconfident classmates.

**Other Plays?**

### **Using Reasoning and Logic During Exams**

- Pay attention to key terms in the question.
- Make a sincere attempt at every question.
- Think through the question (synthesize the information).
- Be aggressive in your attempts to answer the questions.
- Translate material in a question to a different form.
- Evaluate your own answer.

### **A Word About Finals at Texas State**

- Final exam schedules are published in the *University Star* and on the university website.
- Most final exams are \_\_\_\_\_ (covering EVERYTHING gone over in class, as well as outside readings, etc.).
- Some finals are scheduled for Saturdays, so don't plan to go home!!!
- Start studying two to three weeks before finals are scheduled—well-paced reviews beat cramming plan study sessions for 1 to 1 1/2 hours, take 15 minute \_\_\_\_\_ between sessions, and reward yourself for making your study quota.
- Study where it's cool and not too cozy (keeps you alert), and avoid places where you are likely to see friends (the library is NOT ALWAYS the best place to study!!)

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