TEST TAKING STRATEGIES
MATH SPECIFIC

Be prepared

1. Study in advance.
2. Get a good night's rest, eat right, etc.

Vocabulary

1. Know the terminology related to your test topic:
   • Simplify—answer must be in the most simplified form.
   • Reduce—fractions must be in the most simplified form.
   • Factor—find the multiples.
   • Solve—determine a solution to the problem.
   • Rationalize—clear the denominator of radicals.

2. Know the terminology related to tests in general:
   • Explain—discuss the procedures used to solve a problem.
   • Define—state a definition of the term.
   • Identify—state the appropriate solution.
   • List—state a series of facts.

During the Exam

1. Put your name and social security number on the exam.
2. List all the pertinent formulas, algorithms, etc. that you have learned on the side so that you can concentrate on the problems; i.e., create your own formula chart.
3. Scan the exam; note how many questions there are and decide where you would like to begin (this does not always have to be the first problem); it is recommended you do the ones you know first.
4. Be aware of the time; the problems which are worth more in point value should receive more attention.
5. Check your solutions.
6. If there is time remaining, review the entire exam.

Instructions

1. Read the directions carefully.
2. Don't take it for granted that the directions are the same as on your homework/class work.
3. Check that you are doing the appropriate procedure for the appropriate problem; e.g., “For problems 1-5 use matrix A and B,” and “For problems 6-10 use matrix C and D.”
4. Watch for statements such as "Show all your work," "State the formula," etc. Many professors give partial credit.
Types of Questions

1. Multiple Choice Questions
   - Read the problem and underline the words that tell you what to do: e.g., solve, define, etc. (See Vocabulary section.)
   - List any pertinent definitions, formulas, etc. You may want to write them on a sheet of scratch paper if you haven't already.
   - Begin problem solving.
   - Determine the solution to the question.
   - Check to see if your solution is an option; if not, rework the problem.
   - Double-check the solution.
   - If no severe penalty is given for wrong solutions, make an educated guess.

2. True or False
   - Read the statement and determine the concept being discussed.
   - List any pertinent definitions, formulas, etc. You may want to write them on a sheet of scratch paper if you haven't already.
   - Reread the statement and compare it to your knowledge of the content.
   - Decide whether it is true or false.
   - Justify your conclusion (counterexamples if it is false, or proof if it is true).
   - Check by rewriting the statement correctly if it is false or rewriting the statement as is if it is true.

3. Free Response
   - Read the problem, underline the given information, and determine what the problem is requesting.
   - List any pertinent definitions, formulas, etc. You may want to write them on a sheet of scratch paper if you haven't already.
   - Draw a diagram if necessary.
   - Solve the problem showing all possible procedures in order to obtain maximum credit.
   - Check your solutions.
   - Verify that you have answered the original question asked, e.g., a problem that includes the length and the width.