

So you want to study for a test...

Congratulations! This is the 1st step towards success! Before we talk about studying, we need to know what you're going to study: Not the subject, but what *kind of learning* you're going to do! Most of the things you will want to learn for a test are in the "Cognitive Domain", meaning things you will solve using your mental skills. (There are 6 cognitive categories that make up the chart below!) There are different ways that you need to study for different ideas, and by taking a moment to think about what you are trying to learn, you will be able to learn it much better!

| | Knowledge | Comprehension | Application | Analysis | Synthesis | Evaluation |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| What does this Mean? | Something you simply know or do not know. Often involving "who, what, when, where, how, or why" of a topic. | Designed to make sure that you understand the basis behind an idea, in addition to knowing what it is. | These simply ask you to use a concept that you learned with 1 idea, and use it with another concept. | For these questions, you take what you know and see how well it was applied to another subject. | Take 2 ideas and combine them in a way that makes sense and forms a new idea. | Here you make a judgment call about an idea based on some specified set of characteristics. |
| Sample Question | Who was the 1 st President of the United States? | Why is smoking not a good idea? | How can you use soap to clean an elephant? | How is Shakespeare similar to Lady Gaga? | How can you build a machine to make scrambled eggs? | What is the best kind of apple to eat? |
| How to Study for this type... | In order to study for these questions, drill & practice are necessary. | A bit deeper than simple "drill & practice", try studying with a partner for these. | Take what you know from 1 situation, and use that information in another situation | Use what you know about the world and come up with an opinion or criticism of the topic. Make sure you read the question carefully! | Figure out what "bits" of information you need to combine, and "smash" the knowledge together. Use what you know in a different context. | Identify the characteristics used to evaluate, and then use those to "back up" your answer. There are rarely "correct" answers, so long as you have logical evidence for your judgment |
| Examples of Study Techniques (These are GREAT Left Sides!!) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lists of Main Concepts ✓ Flash Cards ✓ Pictograms (clever phrases & pictures) ✓ Mnemonic Devices ✓ Grouping Concepts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Flow Charts ✓ Write a <i>précis</i> (summary, giving the bare facts) ✓ Make a Mad Lib ® type review ✓ Songs, Skits, Plays ✓ Pictures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pretend Games ✓ Charts, Venn Diagrams (similarities & differences) ✓ Write instructions ✓ Make an Equation of your ideas ✓ Think of another planet... | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Write a pretend "sportscast" (summarize & analyze) ✓ Write a newspaper article ✓ Make a puzzle or game ✓ Flowcharts connecting ideas ✓ Commercials featuring the concept | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Physically Diagram the info ✓ List of Directions ✓ Put the problem to music ✓ Design a CD insert or magazine cover about the subject (lots of info in a defined space – creative ways of presenting) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Write... a lot! Journals, Articles, blogs, Essays... ✓ You are a lawyer, prepare your argument for the case ✓ Write a report to the head of your company... |