

Preparing for Finals

PROBLEM-SOLVING EXAMS

Go through past homework assignments, lecture notes, and your textbook.

- Copy out problems.
- Mix them up.
- Solve as many as possible.
- Check your answers.
- For any you do not answer correctly, try to find similar problems and keep working on them.

SHORT ANSWER EXAMS

After reviewing your lecture notes and textbook,

- Make a list of important terms.
- Write down a definition of each term as it was used in the course.
- Think of examples or illustrations of each term.
- Figure out the term or concept's relevance to the course.

ESSAY EXAMS

Review old essay assignments and exams and select a number of topics that seem central to the course.

- Write thesis statements containing the subject and three main points.
- Write an outline for each essay (the more detail - facts, figures, illustrations, and quotations - the better).
- Write out complete essays in the same time frame you have for the exam.
- Review your trial essays - paying attention to areas that could be improved.

OBJECTIVE EXAMS

- Study concepts and examples, as well as facts.
- Study your texts and notes by actively looking for the kind of material that can be answered objectively (i.e. dates, names, precise details).
- Get old copies of exams in the same format. Look for patterns in questions and answers throughout certain disciplines.