

Test Taking Skills Diagnostic Inventory

Many students do not know if their test taking skills raise or lower their test scores. This diagnostic is designed to help students compare current test taking skills with those of “A” students. The # 1 most important test taking technique is to ***know your subject matter well***. Therefore, many students do not realize that most test taking skills take place **before** an actual test.

Place an “X” in the appropriate box that most closely represents what you normally do for tests.

| Test Preparation | Never | Infrequently | Sometimes | Usually | Always |
|---|-------|--------------|-----------|---------|--------|
| I find out as much as I can about upcoming tests. | | | | | |
| I formulate sample test questions out of main ideas. | | | | | |
| I know how many times I have to review my notes so that I KNOW that I know them. | | | | | |
| I self-test to discover what I have and have not learned before I take a test when I can still do something about it. | | | | | |
| I make summary sheets of key points. | | | | | |
| I set up my lecture and text notes in a question and answer or problem and solution format. | | | | | |
| I use as many of my own words as possible in my notes. | | | | | |
| I use mnemonics. | | | | | |
| I use numbers in my notes to indicate steps, stages, phases, characteristics, etc. | | | | | |
| I avoid cramming. | | | | | |
| I get plenty of rest the night before a test. | | | | | |
| I study with one or more students for tests. | | | | | |
| I arrive early to the classroom on the day of the test. | | | | | |

| Test Taking | Never | Infrequently | Sometimes | Usually | Always |
|--|-------|--------------|-----------|---------|--------|
| I read the directions before I begin answering questions. | | | | | |
| I read over all the questions before beginning a test. | | | | | |
| I estimate how much time I can spend on each question before I begin. | | | | | |
| I underline or circle key words in questions. | | | | | |
| I go back and check all of my answers before I turn in my test. | | | | | |
| I only change answers if I am <i>absolutely certain</i> that my first answer was wrong. | | | | | |
| I begin by answering the easiest questions and questions that carry the most points first. | | | | | |



| Test Taking | Never | Infrequently | Sometimes | Usually | Always |
|--|-------|--------------|-----------|---------|--------|
| I have specific strategies to use when I have to guess. | | | | | |
| I know how to quickly and clearly construct an essay question. | | | | | |

Now add the total points for each column:

Never: 1 point

Infrequently: 2 points

Sometimes: 3 points

Usually: 4 points

Always: 5 points

Total score: ____

Test taking efficiency score:

- 22-44 You should start making major changes in your test taking strategies.
- 45-66 Some changes would likely increase future test scores.
- 67-88 Only a few or minor changes are needed to earn higher grades on tests.
- 89-110 You have very good test taking strategies.

Please answer the following questions:

What changes do you see that you need to make?

What are your most productive test taking strategies so far?

What are your least productive test taking strategies?