

## STUDY HINTS FOR MATHEMATICS

1. Allow daily time to concentrate on math. Allow no less than one hour a day. You should spend “mental time” with the subject and not just paper and pencil time.
2. Buy yourself a notebook to record important class information in. This would include class notes, homework, and important points from the text.
3. Before you work assigned problems, study your notes and textbook.
4. Practice, practice, practice. Learning by doing is important.
  - a. Do the example exercises. These are models for the type of problems being covered. Write them on a separate sheet of paper and solve them. Then check your work against what is in the book.
  - b. Write out carefully all the steps in solving the examples.
  - c. Write out and learn (perhaps memorize) definitions, axioms, and theorems. Memorize all important formulas.
5. When you get confused about a problem, or a group of problems, bring them to class. Ask questions of your instructor until you feel you understand. This may require you to schedule an appointment to talk with your instructor after class.
6. Use your instructor’s office hours if you get confused or visit the drop-in tutoring center or ask other students for help. But don’t allow yourself to stay stuck!

## HINTS FOR TAKING A MATH TEST

1. Look at all questions before you answer anything – preview the test.
2. Begin by working the EASY problems. You may find the last problem is easier than the first. Begin there.
3. Pace yourself so that you have time for the more difficult problems.
4. Write clearly and carefully. Write out every step neatly. This helps you avoid careless errors and lets the instructor see your thought process.
5. Draw a picture if they will help.
6. Check your work carefully. Do your answers look reasonable? Did you do your work correctly?