

# Tips for preparing for exams

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This semester we will have 3 in-class exams and a final exam. For more information on the dates check the syllabus. Here are some things I think you would help you better prepare for these exams.

## 1. Read your lecture notes

- By reading your lecture notes you see what material has been covered (the instructor rarely covers all the material in the textbook).
- Go over the example done in class, while those may not be too many, usually they are illustrating the most important concepts of the material aka the things you should definitely know. This is why sometimes problems solved in class appear as exam questions.
- Make sure you know all the definitions (e.g. what is a polynomial). This way you will know what each question on the exam is asking you to do.
- If you don't have lecture notes you might be in trouble, try to borrow some from a friend?

## 2. Go over your homeworks

- Make sure you still remember how to solve each problem without using the textbook. The exams are all closed book!
- Make sure you understand your mistakes. Very often exam questions are just homework problems (or at least almost homework problems)!

## 3. Practice tests

- Its always good to go over a practice test if the instructor has sent you one.
- The best way to figure out if you are prepared is to try to take the test closed book also make note of the time it took you to solve it. This way you know if you need to work on improving your test taking time.

- Keep in mind that the problems on the actual exam might be different!
4. Old exams and quizzes you have already taken
    - We include here all the on-line quizzes, the clicker questions and earlier exams.
    - They are an invaluable resource. Again like with the homeworks, make sure you understand your mistakes. More often than not, the questions from old exams appear again later, for example on the final.
  5. Learn to anticipate the exam problems
    - This is not as easy as it may sound.
    - You need to answer a few questions like - "What's the most important stuff I learned in this course? What did we spend most time on? What types of problems was the homework emphasising on? (those are things I will definitely be tested on)".
  6. Resources
    - If there is something you don't understand you should make sure to find someone who can help you with it. Check the syllabus for available resources here on campus (instructor, TA, math helproom, learning den) and off-campus (on the resources page of the website).