



Essay Tests

Before the test	During the test	After the test												
<p>Make a list of main ideas or themes that your instructor covered in class. Note relationships between ideas; they may be clues to possible essay questions!</p>	<p>Pay attention to key words. Make sure you understand the question.</p> <p>For example: <i>Compare, explain, justify, and define.</i></p>	<p>Examine the points that you missed. Review your TA or professor's feedback on your essays. Investigate what areas you were not ready for.</p> <p>For example: <i>Determine from which chapters or lessons most of the essay questions appeared and create a strategy to tackle those areas in the next round.</i></p>												
<p>Generate a list of possible questions using your relationship charts and summary sheets.</p> <p>For example: <i>Compare and contrast President Bush's proposed private accounts for Social Security and the current system:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="152 1134 540 1354"> <thead> <tr> <th>Issues</th> <th>Private Account</th> <th>Current System</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Social</td> <td>Individual assumes risk</td> <td>Society assumes risk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Political</td> <td>Republicans</td> <td>Democrats</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Economic</td> <td>Potentially gaining higher investment yields</td> <td>Risks of the marketplace</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Issues	Private Account	Current System	Social	Individual assumes risk	Society assumes risk	Political	Republicans	Democrats	Economic	Potentially gaining higher investment yields	Risks of the marketplace	<p>Brainstorm and make an outline. If you don't know much about a question. Try to recall your reading, lectures, and discussions; this may trigger memories relevant to the question.</p> <p>For example: <i>Quickly list the ideas and facts you want to include. Number the points in the order you want to present them. Be sure to distinguish main topics from supporting examples.</i></p>	<p>Learn why the correct answer was more appropriate than yours. Did you answer the question?</p> <p>For example: <i>Look to see whether you covered the what, who, where, when, and how.</i></p>
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	<p>If you're still blank, move on to a different question and come back to it later. If you run out of time, write an outline for the rest of the answer. The grader might be able to give you partial credit for what you have written.</p>	<p>Did you have difficulty completing the essays? Try timing yourself while practicing writing essays or at the very least, essay outlines.</p>												