



Exams

This guide will help ensure you can prepare for exams as best as possible.

Exam info

Get the details for your exams as soon as possible. Your main sources of information at first will be your [Learning Guides](#) and [Past Exam Papers](#) (where available). You'll also find essential information at the official [Exams & Results website](#). Click the headings below to link to the resource.

LEARNING GUIDE	PAST EXAM PAPERS	WSU EXAMS & RESULTS WEBSITE	MY EXAM TIMETABLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•How much the exam is worth for that unit•How long the exam will be•How the exam helps you achieve learning outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Exam questions from previous years•How long the exam was•Opportunity to practise under exam conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Exam rules•What to bring/travel & planning tips•Exam timetable info•FAQs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Your personalised exam timetable•Available later in semester•Dates & times•Locations

Studying for exams

Write a 30-second **summary** after each class or reading.
Study in **regular** short, focussed sessions to keep up with unit content.
Form a **study group** & learn from each other.
Explain key concepts to others.

All semester

Organise your notes.
Create mind maps, flash cards & other tools.
Select key content to revise based on exam info.
Practise with past papers.

1-2 weeks before

Read over notes on key content.
Get a good night's **sleep!**

Night before

Tip: Bookmark the [Common task words](#) guide (PDF, 107 kB) as a study resource. You'll be able to respond better to your exam questions if you're familiar with these common instruction words.

Study Techniques

There are many ways to engage with what you learn, to transform your knowledge, make it meaningful to you, and remember it. Here are some creative approaches you could use that involve your different senses:

Tip: Poor diet, stress, and lack of sleep have a negative effect on learning. You'll process information better if you take care of yourself with proper sleep, stress relieving breaks, exercise, nutritious brain food, and water (see [Tracking Your Success](#)).

Examples of Study Techniques

Technique	Description	Example
Mnemonics	Translate information into another form that is easier to remember.	Cardinal Points on a compass (clockwise) <i>Never Eat Soggy Weetbix</i> = North, East, South, West
Rhyme	Use similar sounding words in regular patterns	Number of days in each month in a calendar year <i>30 days has September, April, June and November...</i>
Music	Turning facts and figures into new song lyrics for a familiar song	The story of the Trojan War in Homer's Iliad to the tune of Soft Cell's 'Tainted Love' (video, 3:15) created by History Teachers.
Smell	Choose a scent to associate with your study material.	Cinnamon for unit 1, lavender for unit 2, sandalwood for unit 3, etc. You could put some essential oil on your wrist while studying for a unit and do the same when you go to that unit's exam.
Mind Palaces	Associate items (numbers, words, concepts, etc.) with specific images, objects, or places that are familiar to you	Create a world where, for example: superhero characters represent letters and numbers (Batman = W) or movie scenes represent locations (Maximus walking in the country field in the movie <i>Gladiator</i> = ancient Rome) or associate concepts with your favourite sport team players to remember what you're learning.
Practical Experience	Actively apply what you're learning	For a music class, play the instrument. For a science experiment, test it. For epic poetry, perform it.

Pre-exam checklist

Avoid extra stress on your exam day: make a pre-exam checklist to plan ahead for crucial admin and logistical details.

Take a few minutes to think about your **travel logistics, essential exam equipment** (e.g. your Student ID), and the date, time and location of your exams (**your exam timetable**).

- What is your exam schedule? (Check **your exam timetable** and keep checking it until the exam in case it changes.)
- When and how will you get to your exam?
- What do you need to bring?
- What food and drink will you need and where will it come from?
- Where will you leave your bag during the exam?

Types of exams

Essay questions

To answer an essay question in an exam, you need to do the following kinds of thinking:

- Understanding ideas or concepts.
- Understanding how ideas or concepts are connected.
- Applying concepts to analyse a new question or situation.

Study Tips:

- Evaluating ideas or approaches
- Practise answering questions from past papers.
- Practise quickly planning an essay structure.
- Practise writing with limited time.
- Practise handwriting.

Short answer questions

To answer short answer questions in an exam, you need to do the following kinds of thinking:

- Remembering facts and basic concepts
- Understanding ideas or concepts
- Understanding how ideas or concepts are connected

Study Tips

- Practise answering questions from past papers.
- If your textbook has exercise questions, practise with those as they usually have answers.
- Study in a group & test each other.
- Explain key concepts to others.

Multiple choice questions

To answer multiple choice questions (MCQ) in an exam, you need to do the following kinds of thinking:

- Recalling or recognising facts and basic concepts
- Understanding ideas or concepts
- Identifying features of an example or situation

Study Tips:

- Do all your unit MCQ quizzes (if available).
- Practise answering MCQs from your textbook (if available) as they usually have answers.
- Create flashcards (either paper or digital) for key concepts.

Clinical situations

Clinical tests such as **OSCE/OSCA** require you to:

- Apply a technique(s) in a clinical situation
- Explain or justify your decisions

Clinical scenario questions require you to:

- Apply theory to a clinical scenario

Study Tips:

- Practise at every opportunity (e.g. in class) and reflect on the feedback you receive.
- Study with friends and practise with each other.
- Get familiar with any equipment you need to use.

Scientific tests

Scientific tests require you to:

- Recall information
- Apply formulae & logic
- Perform calculations

Study Tips:

- Memorise the most important formulae
- Get familiar with your scientific calculator
- Practise working through scientific problems and logic questions.

Open-book exams & take-home exams

Open book and take-home exams require you to:

- Synthesise information
- Understand and apply concepts
- Make connections between concepts and examples

Study Tips:

- Organise your notes carefully so you can quickly find what you need.
- Practise answering questions from past papers using your notes, and reorganise your notes if needed.
- Create a detailed mind map of unit concepts so you understand how it's all connected.