Test Preparation

Math

Before the Test:
- Quickly review your notes to determine important topics/problems.
- Look over your notes and texts, making a list of concepts and formulas.
- Review and rework homework problems, noting concepts applied.
- Note similarities and differences among problems.
- Find additional problems and use them to make a practice test.
- Predict test questions and try to work similar problems under similar restrictions (time, etc.).

During the Test:
- Glance over the whole exam quickly, assessing questions as to their level of difficulty and point value. Also get a sense of how much time to spend on each question. Leave time at the end to check your work.
- Begin to work the problems which seem easiest to you. Also give priority to those problems which are worth the most points.
- Maximize partial credit possibilities by showing all your work.
- If you have a lapse of memory on a certain problem, skip the problem and return to it later.

After the Test:
Analyzing returned tests can aid your studying for future tests.
- Did most of the test come from lecture, textbook, or homework?
- How were the problems different from those in my notes, test, and homework?
- Where was my greatest source of error (careless errors, lack of time, lack of understanding material, uncertainty of which method to choose, lack of prerequisite information, test anxiety, etc.)?
- How can I change my studying habits to adjust for the errors I am making?

Information adapted from "Nervous in Numberland," Scholastic Math, September, 1984, pp. 9 and 11.