Evolve your Study Skills

Several study strategies are likely already somewhat familiar to you. We can take those same familiar study strategies, and turn them into an upgraded version, as well as a maximum efficiency version. Use the charts below for ideas on how to make the most of your time spent studying.

NOTE CARDS/FLASH CARDS

GOOD	UPGRADED	MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS
• One term/concept per card • Digitally through Quizlet or another online platform, or physical cards • Shuffling the order of concepts to prevent memorizing the list as-is • Reciting the definitions exactly as they are written and/or typed	• One term/concept per card • Digitally through Quizlet or another online platform, or physical cards • Shuffling the order of concepts to prevent memorizing the list as-is • Alternating between studying the terms first and providing definitions, and studying the definitions and providing the terms • Providing the definition/explanation of the concept in your OWN words	• One term/concept per card • Digitally through sticky notes, or physical cards • Shuffling the cards and then arranging the terms/concepts into piles that correlate to one another • Removing a term/concept from the pile, and explaining how that missing piece affects the remaining whole (i.e., a list of characters in a novel in your Lit class; removing one of the supporting characters alters the plot, OR the muscles of the arm in A&P; removing the extensor digitorum means you can't straighten your fingers or flex your wrist back towards the body) • Teaching the terms/concepts to someone who has no knowledge of the subject in more readily accessible terms (i.e., explaining a historical conflict through the lens of a recent pop culture scandal)

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STUDY GUIDES

GOOD	UPGRADED	MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS
• Chapter by chapter in chronological order • Mixing in terms to review where possible • Referring to the list of concepts to know if the instructor provides one • Skimming the corresponding chapters in the textbook itself	• Making a list of the most challenging concepts to know first • Creating a "cheat sheet" a la high school and cramming as much information on to it as possible • Color-coding that cheat sheet to identify which concepts go with each chapter • Defining key concepts in your own words to more readily recall them on the test itself • Recycling old test questions from previous assessments that you may have gotten incorrect the first time around	• Organizing your study schedule/the guide itself based off of most complicated to least (i.e., instead of chapters 1-7, organizing it by 7, 3, 1, 4…) if those are the most difficult chapters for you) • Reviewing your "cheat sheet" and progressively using a smaller size of paper to determine what is the MOST important to have a physical reference for (i.e., starting with a half sheet of paper, then a 4x6 note card, and then a 3x5) • Recreating that "cheat sheet" on the backside of your test on test day • Recycling old test questions that you got incorrect the first time, AND creating your own questions that may appear on the test • Assigning yourself one section of study guide to review per day leading up to the test itself

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COLOR CODING/CALENDARING

GOOD	UPGRADED	MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS
• Using one color for school-related events, and one for life-related (i.e., a lab report vs club volleyball practice) • Using your color coding on either a planner or your personal calendar • Switching up highlighter/note taking colors for visual interest	• Using one color for each major subject, and one for life events (i.e., science is always green, English is purple, life events are blue, etc.) • Using the same system on your Outlook calendar AND your personal calendar • Have a consistent highilghting and annotation system where you know exactly what each color refers to (i.e., yellow is for terms, blue is for definitions, asterisks are for things that are not quite making sense just yet)	• Using one color/class to help differentiate when assignments and projects are due in each of your courses • Syncing your Outlook, personal, AND Canvas calendars to keep track of all of your assignments and obligations in one place (there's an SSC tutorial for that!) • Have a consistent highilghting and annotation system where you know exactly what each color refers to (i.e., yellow is for terms, blue is for definitions, asterisks are for things that are not quite making sense just yet), AND using corresponding flag tabs on the side of your textbook to help reference these things as you are studying later

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