



Exams

This guide contains the following information:

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2. Studying for exams
3. Pre-exam checklist
4. Types of exams

Exam info

Get the details for your exams as soon as possible. Your main sources of information at first will be your [Learning Guide](#) 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 information•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 Memory and Study Techniques

Technique	Description	Example	Good for those who:
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	Easily remember things they see or hear; easily recognise patterns or make word associations.
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> (Read more)	Easily remember things they hear or say, or things they repeat frequently.
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.	Easily remember song lyrics, things they hear and say, or things they repeat frequently.
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.	Easily make associations between sensations and ideas.
Mind Palaces	Associate items (numbers, words, concepts, etc.) with specific images, objects, or places that are familiar to you.	Imagine yourself walking through your home and seeing each ingredient for a recipe (in the right quantities) in a separate location as you walk through. Watch The Memory Palace: Can You Do It? (video, 3:34) to see how it works. See also Memory Palaces and the Method of Loci for tips on memorising using location.	Easily remember things they see and do, or things that are familiar.
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.	Easily remember things they see and do, or things they repeat frequently.

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 card; electronic devices and software for online exams), 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?
- If your exam is online, what space, device, and internet connection do you need to have available?
- 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.
- Evaluating ideas or approaches

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

Multiple choice questions

To answer multiple choice questions (MCQs) 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

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

Scientific tests

Scientific tests require you to:

- Recall information
- Apply formulae & logic
- Perform calculations

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

Online exams

If your exam is online, you may be supervised via a 'remote proctor'. You'll need to download specific software before your exam, and check whether your exam is 'open book' (you can use notes) or 'closed book' (no notes allowed).

Find out more about online proctoring: [Online Exam Proctoring - Student FAQ](#)

Study tips:

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

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.

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.

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.

Study tips:

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

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.