

## Top 10 Things You Need to Know about Exams but Were Afraid to Ask

10. The purpose of exams is to give students a chance to synthesize a semester's material and to draw new connections. Reviewing this material will also help you to retain it.
9. If you have done well in your class all semester and kept up with the material, you should do well on the exam. The exam is your *reward* for your diligence.
8. If you have not been as diligent and worked as hard as you should have, doing well on the exam can really help to bring up your semester grade.
7. Find out what's on the exam before you take it. Ask your teachers about the material covered and the format.
6. Know your current grade prior to taking your exam.
5. Everyone prepares for exams differently. Do what works best for you. Unlike with tests and quizzes, however, you cannot successfully cram. There is simply too much material to review.
4. Make your studying more *active* than passive. This means actually *practicing* math problems and essay questions, rather than just reading about them while lying on your bed listening to your iPod.
3. At some point the night before the exam, sleep becomes a better tool than studying.
2. Dress for success. You don't want to be too hot or cold. You may also want to bring a water bottle and snack. Bring plenty of pencils, pens, and a calculator with batteries in it.
1. Don't stress. You're good enough. You're smart enough. And, gosh darn it, your teachers like you.