

Tips on How to Study Effectively

Tip #1: Regular Review

- Don't do all your studying at the last minute
 - Take a few minutes each day to review what you learned that day and then go back to review previous learning (i.e. on Day 1, review Day 1 material; on Day 2, review Day 2+1; on Day 3, review Day 3+2+1 etc.)

Tip #2: Know what to Study

- Begin by reviewing the Learning Outcomes for the unit: What ones can I confidently check off (don't cheat – be honest with yourself as you are the only one to see this)? What ones do I need to review more? Okay, now I know where to begin.
- Use the “hints” provided about what to study that are given in class.
- Prepare in advance on the written topics: this information is given to you so you can be successful – why not take advantage of it? If you don't you are only harming your own learning and success in the course.
- Think about how much time we spent on each topic in the unit: if we spent a whole class on the topic and did one or more assignments, you can bet it is important and will be on the test. If I only mentioned it in passing or we only spent a short amount of time on it, chances are it won't be a major part of the test.
- Keep an organized binder and/or digital device! If all assignments and notes in the unit are in chronological order, you are prepared and ready to study.

Tip #3: Know your learning style

- Re-reading the textbook is an ineffective way to study: doing something with the material is more effective because you are engaged with the material
- How do you learn best? Your learning style may include one or more of the following:
 - Kinesthetic – you learn best by doing, so make flashcards or re-write information into your own words or teach someone else (your pet makes a great student!)
 - Try Quizlet or Flash Cards + (iOS app)
 - Visual – you learn best by seeing, so make a diagram or mind map or flow chart that shows the relationships between all the vocabulary in the unit
 - Auditory – you learn best by hearing, so find someone who can review with you and re-teach the material or you be the teacher and teach someone else (when you hear yourself speak you will be learning!)

Tip #4: The “So What?” test

- Think of the things you have learned and ask yourself “So What?” to determine the importance of the event or topic. This allows you to think of the BIG IDEAS.
 - Example: The Bill of Rights 1689 – so what? It brought democracy to England by limiting the powers of the monarchy and giving power to the Parliament to govern the country...and the Parliament is made up of people elected by the citizens to rule for the people – so the people have the power to govern themselves.

Tip #5: Chunking

- When you are looking at topics for review, ask yourself which topics go together and make the connections.
 - Example: James I, Charles I, Charles II, James II – all believed in governing England as absolute monarchs (yes, Charles II was more secretive about wanting to rule with absolute power than the other 3, but all 4 believed this was the best way to rule England)