

STUDYING FOR MATHS OR STATS EXAMS

Like most uni assessments, maths exams require you to understand a question, formulate a solution and then express this solution as clearly as possible. Taking in information and churning more out, is a two-way process which requires a lot of practice.

Here is a rigorous method of studying for your maths exam. It requires a lot of time, but will maximise your success.

0. Preliminaries

The crucial exam preparation is to have attempted the practice exercises, assignments, etc during semester - even if you didn't get good marks.

1. Organise

Group together, organise and index your worksheets, lecture notes, past tests, solutions, etc. *Make sure you have **hard copies** of every resource for the unit!* (to encourage writing and avoid distractions from computers).

2. Read

Read through all of your lecture notes, making sure you understand every line of working out before you proceed. If you get stuck on a line, keep trying to figure it out for up to 10 minutes. If you are still stuck, mark this line and move on. Once you have read through all of your notes, you will need somebody to help you with the marked lines. At some point, all of your notes should make sense!

3. Summarise

Go through your notes again and write them out in a nice new notebook (your Summary Notebook). Don't write out the examples or proofs, just the main theory, formulae, rules, and definitions.



Fritz the Cat by R. Crumb

4. Exercise

Do every single question on your exercise sheets and past tests again. Do one exercise sheet at a time, attempting all of the problems. Mark your efforts afterwards. List the questions you got wrong. Repeat for past tests.

5. Correct

For each question you got wrong, work through again and identify your mistakes. If you can't do this on your own, ask somebody for help!

Write a neat solution to each of your previously incorrect answers in a nice new notebook (your Corrections Notebook).

Note: If your unit includes theorems and proofs, treat theorems from the lectures as exercises, with their proofs as solutions.

6. Practice

It is very important that you practise the previous years' exams to the point where you can write them out flawlessly. You might have to team up with friends to work out the solutions. Once you have attempted the exam questions and you have corrected them, add them to your Corrections Notebook.

7. Revise

By now, you have taken the unit, and reduced it in to two parts: **theory** and **practice** with a notebook for each. Study them regularly up to exams. The day before the exam, in addition to reading over your two notebooks as many times as possible, you should work through the past exams again. On the day of the exam, you should give yourself a quick test to make sure you can recall the important formulae and equations!

This Survival Guide is a summary of our workshop "How to study for a maths/ stats exam" which can be found at

<http://www.studysmarter.uwa.edu.au/>

Follow the link to "(ma+hs)Smart" and then "Online resources for your units".



*Doing well in mathematics is all about **confidence**.
You must put your pen to paper as much as possible!
The more writing you do, the more confident you will be.*

(ma+hs)Smart
Maths and statistics

More maths and stats information is available at
<http://www.studysmarter.uwa.edu.au/>

- ✓ Workshops
- ✓ Drop-In study sessions
- ✓ Online resources

Like this Survival Guide? Why not check out...

Survival Guides: *Maths or stats lectures, Keeping up with maths or stats, Being stuck on maths problems, Myths about maths, A maths or stats service course, Manage stress, Study smarter not harder, Studying at UWA, Effective time management.*

Want to know more about STUDY Smarter?

Find out about all our services and resources at: www.studysmarter.uwa.edu.au

Any suggestions?

We'd love to hear from you. Email us at study.smarter@uwa.edu.au

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