

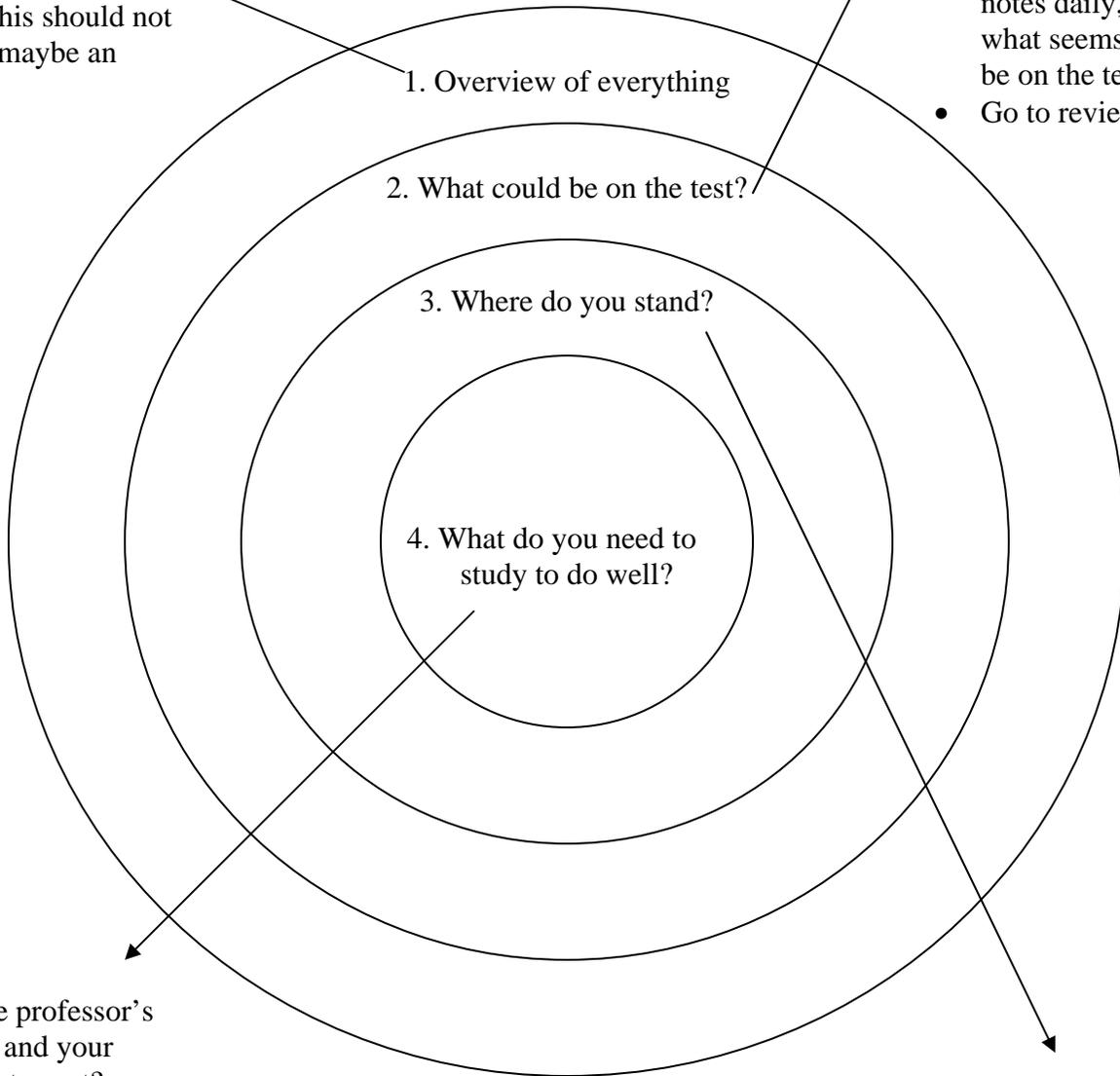
Test Preparation: the Bullseye Strategy

Academic Resource Center 919.684.5917

Familiarize yourself with all material since the last test. Get a “big picture” view of the crucial and non-crucial concepts/themes so you can place your studies in context. This should not take long (maybe an evening)

What are the most important concepts?

- What have you been told/not told to review?
- When reviewing your notes daily, highlight what seems likely to be on the test
- Go to review sessions!



Where do the professor's expectations and your knowledge intersect?

- What do you still not know very well?
- Identify gaps
- This ring should be the focus of your time

Self-assess how well you know the material

- Make a study guide and outline
- Make up practice problems
- For practice examples, use discussion and concept questions at the end of chapters

How to study

Test Format

← Ask professors

- How will you be expected to think on the exam?
- Are there practice exams?

- Will the test resemble homeworks?
- Are there essays/multiple choice?

Memorization

- Requires you to know formulas, dates, names, definitions, etc.
- Use flash cards or the back of your notebook to write these down
- Use a study partner to quiz you
- Spend 10 minutes while on the bus or between classes to keep reviewing these facts

Synthesis

- Requires you to combine ideas from the course in new ways
- Ask yourself: “how does all of this fit together?”
- Review concepts and ask: What do they have in common?; How are they different? What is the result of synthesizing two or more concepts?
- Concept maps showing connections are useful tools

Application

- Requires you to understand the concept and use it in new situations
- Ask yourself “what if” questions. What if you combine one concept with another (last night's homework with an idea from the first week) - what would that problem look like and how would you solve it?
- Practice with textbook concept questions and discussion problems from the ends of chapters

Analysis/Interpretation

- Requires you to offer your own ideas about a particular concept, theory or event
- Develop reasoned interpretations in order to logically argue your ideas in ways that incorporate course themes and accepted methods of reasoning in your discipline
- Think about “so what?” questions
- Create your own sample essay questions and prepare outlines of possible answers