

Exam Taking for Math & Science

1 Do a Brain Dump

- Write down important formulas, draw diagrams



2 Look over entire exam

- Read the instructions
- Survey all questions for 5 minutes
- Budget your time and make a plan



"Get into the zone"

3 Make a plan

- Look at the mark values of questions
- Do the easy questions first
 - For M/C use M/C strategy
- Set time deadlines for exam sections

4 Approach each question systematically

- Think about how you will answer before writing
- If not sure, write part answers in 2 or 3 words (flag question)

6

After the Exam

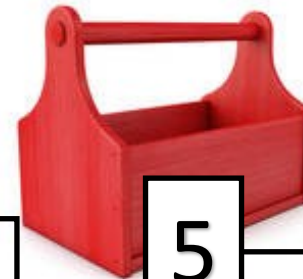
- Plan a reward
- Debrief vs. distance
- Review after it is marked (learn from your mistakes)



5

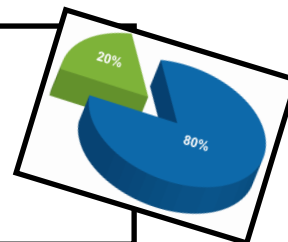
Exam Taking Toolbox

- M/C question strategies
- Problem Solving Strategies
- Short answer question strategies



Use "80% rule" to deal with time pressure

- Your goal is to finish 80% of the exam really well (answer questions you know first). Leave out the 20% that you will not do well on.
- Result = you focus your attention on doing your best on the 80%.
- Overtime, move up to 85%...90%...



References

James Madison University. (n.d.). The learning toolbox: Test-taking. Retrieved from <http://coe.jmu.edu/learningtoolbox/testtaking.html>

Kovach, K. (2011). *A collection of the best learning strategies on earth* (3rd ed.). Edmonton, AB: University of Alberta.

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