

# SP<sup>3</sup> - Student Planning Pointers for Parents



## Top 10 Hot Tips for Finals

1. It's important to plan and actually schedule the appropriate amount of study time needed for each final. Not every class will require the same amount of studying time. For example, a Biology final will more than likely require more prep time than an Art final. Your student should analyze how hard the exam will likely be and how well he already knows the material.
2. Will the final be comprehensive, covering all of the material throughout the entire term? Or will it focus on certain material from part of the term? Having a study guide or a sample final will definitely help!
3. Will the exam include an essay? If so, allow extra study time in order to fully develop and practice writing the answers in complete sentences. A good tactic is to begin the essay with the answer to the question. For example: If the question is "What was the 13th Amendment?" a good answer could begin with "The 13th Amendment to the Constitution abolished slavery and involuntary servitude." To determine if it's understandable, your student could 'teach' it to you.
4. Once 1 through 3 are known, use a planner or calendar to divide up the study time among all of the classes. Scheduling short chunks of time per class is a better strategy than cramming the night before each exam. For example, if a Biology exam concentrates on one unit which includes 7 chapters, and there are 7 days before the final, review one chapter per day using the study guide or review questions to pinpoint the information that will be included on the exam.
5. Study with a partner or a group only if it makes sense for your student. The partner or group members should be at a similar skill level as your student so that the time is well spent discussing the content instead of the arrangement becoming more of a tutor-student situation.
6. Class notes are very helpful during an "open book" exam, but only if they're good notes! Review any class notes your student has taken and help him organize them using a method such as outlining or mapping or charting. But it's also very important to know the textbook layout so that answers are easily found during the exam.
7. At test time, take a minute to review the test format. Are there multiple choice or essay questions? How many questions are there? Teachers usually design the exams to allow plenty of time for students to complete them within the required time limit.
8. Read through each question and all multiple choice options very carefully. If the answer isn't immediately known, move on to the next one and return to any incomplete questions after all of them are answered. It's possible that later questions just might spark an answer to an earlier question.
9. Remind your student not to rush through the exam just to be the first one to finish!
10. If your student has extra time after answering all questions, check over the test to see if there is any question not answered. Also, review any uncertain answers to see if they can be corrected, especially for math problems where the work usually has to be shown



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