How to Ace Exams

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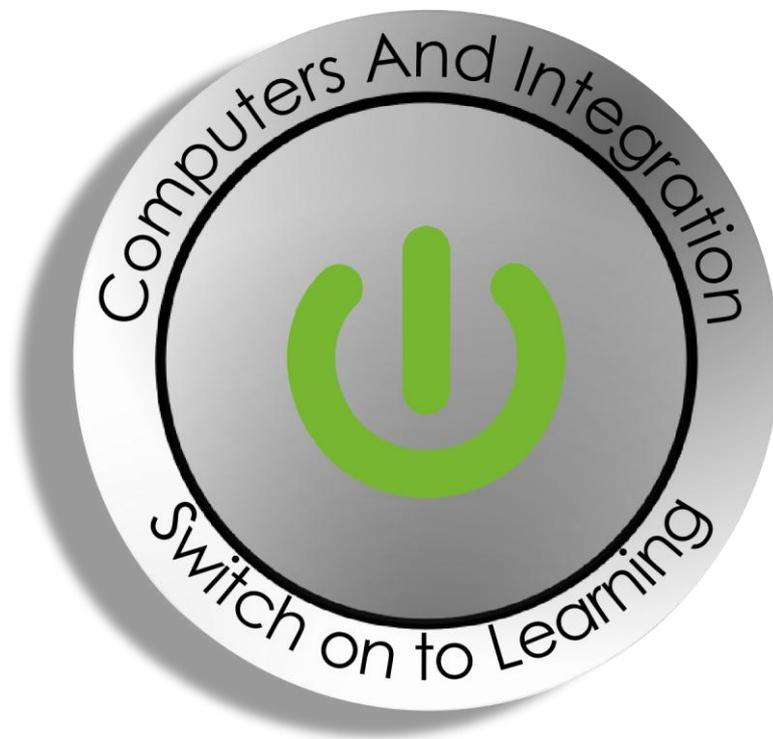
Preface

Do you find exams hard? Do you struggle with revising for exams? If you do, don't panic. This guide tells you how to approach lectures so that you'll remember information in time for the all important exam.

In particular, this guide will encourage you to:

Understand lecture material
Learn with memory aids
Participate as much as possible
Use memory techniques for maximum effect
Eat, sleep and stay hydrated
Approach exams with common sense

Chapter 1 – Seek to understand

Seek to understand concepts and topics as it will make it easier to remember. In particular, seek to understand lecture notes written by your lecturer.

Try and learn notes that are written by your lecturer as these will likely form the basis of tests and exams.

If you don't understand a topic, learn it parrot-fashion.

Chapter 2 – Learn with memory aids

Use apps like Flashcards+ and StudyBlue to make and organize your own mobile flashcards and review sheets.

Draw mind maps, graphics and charts to summarise vital information from lectures and books.

Chapter 3 – Participate as much as possible

Attend classes regularly and participate whenever possible to help remember more.

Read background material to lectures and topics in order to make more sense of lectures and seminars.

Try and make notes of key information from lectures

Do papers from past exams to help you revise for your upcoming exam

Chapter 4 – Use memory techniques

Use mnemonics and other tricks to help remember key things. For example, **E**very **G**ood **B**oy **D**eserves **F**udge is a good way of remembering the musical scale EGBDF. Also, **A** **D**ay **I**n **T**own **D**oesn't **E**xhaust **M**e is a good way of remembering the computer software development lifecycle of Analysis, Design, Implementation, Testing, Documentation, Evaluation and Maintenance.

Listen to classical music before an exam to stimulate your memory.

Chapter 5 – Eat, sleep and stay hydrated

Go to bed early the night before an exam and get a good night's sleep.

Make sure you eat before an exam so that you're not hungry in the middle of a test.

Take a bottle of water with you to exams so that you stay hydrated and don't get thirsty. But don't drink too much so that you have to go to the toilet.

Chapter 6 – Approach exams with common sense

Take multiple pens to exams just in case one fails.

Answer the questions you know first to make sure you get as much of the test done as possible. If you get stuck, quickly move on to the next question you can answer.

Never leave questions blank. Especially if questions are multiple-choice, make an educated guess at the answer.

Dedicate more time to questions that are worth a lot of marks.

Leave enough time to check your answer paper at the end of an exam.

Write neat and easy to read hand writing. Writing in plain English will not only make it easier for you to write but it will be easier to read as well.