



The Betty East Tutoring Center at Victoria College

Johnson Hall, Room 106
2200 E. Red River St.
Victoria, TX 77901
361-571-6473

www.victoriacollege.edu/tutoringcenter

Test Taking Strategies

If you believe you are a bad test taker, you are not alone. Many students feel this way. There are several small changes you can make to your testing routine that can make a big difference. These changes include:

Eating Before the Exam:

A nourished mind is a strong mind! Plus, your stomach rumbling is a big distraction in a quiet testing room.

Arrive on Time:

Timing is essential. Ideally, you should arrive at the exam room five minutes before the test begins. This gives you plenty of time to set up your work station, but not too much time for you to over think and stress.

Skim the Test:

Take a quick look at how the test is set-up and the types of questions before beginning to answer questions. Do all of the questions you know first. Then, go back to questions you were not so sure about. Check for bonus questions that you can answer first, bonuses can make a big difference in your test score.

Don't Panic:

If you see a high-point question that you do not know, remain calm. Flip through the rest of the test and find questions you can answer. This can help jog your memory for the other questions.

Be Confident:

If you need clarification, ask the professor to explain what is required to answer that particular question. Be specific in your questions. For multiple choice or true/false questions, do not overthink—go with your gut.

In short essay questions, write 2-3 sentence responses. Write concisely, and be sure you clearly answer the question. It is better to have too much information than not enough.

Never leave blanks on exams. Try to answer a part of the question or guess an answer. You may get partial credit for trying. Allow yourself a few minutes to check the exam before turning it in. Be positive that you haven't skipped any questions or pages.

Don't second guess yourself. Only change an answer when you are sure it is wrong, such as if you misread the questions or you remembered information while reading another section of the test. Sometimes simply finishing the test relieves enough pressure for you to be able to remember an answer.