Thursday March 18th

Game plan for tonight
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- 6:00 – 6:30 – take Chapter 2 test
- 6:35 – Math Study Skills chapter 10
- 7:00 – 7:15 Math Study Skills assessment 2
- 7:15 – March 29th – Spring Break
Test taking

Betcha wish we discussed this before you just took your last test?

Test taking skills is the culmination of the vast stores of knowledge that have been presented to you via the Math Study Skills textbook (pg. 75)

Many students can do well on homework, without necessarily truly understanding the material it covers

Exams are designed to be a true test of your understanding

Yet, this is not always the case, because some people do poorly on exams even though they understand the material
Your current approach (pg. 75)

- This should be fresh in your mind
- Take five minutes and describe your current test preparation technique.
- Provide times and activities
Doing homework is good, but not enough

- You have access to materials (book, notes, friends, internet) when you do homework that you do not have for tests
- Doing homework is but one part of preparing for tests
- The author likens test prep to rehearsing for a play
- Actors use a “dress rehearsal” to prepare for their opening performance
- Math students should also “dress rehearse” by taking practice tests
- There are practice tests in your textbook, as well as on My Math Lab
Taking practice tests

- Since you cannot use your notes, book, etc. during the real test, do not use them during your practice test.
- If you are making your own practice test, do not use problems that are too easy or too hard – maybe choose problems that are in the middle of each homework section.
- Afterwards, grade yourself and work on the concepts that still give you trouble.
Taking a practice test

- I will leave this up to you – before your next (Chapter 3) test, make and/or take a practice test, and see if it helps your confidence for the Chapter 3 test
Other test preparation ideas

- Do your homework consistently
- One week before exam: increase your amount of notes review, make a list of potential exam questions.
- Ask your instructor for suggestions on what to study, and if there are any problems you have trouble with, ask if they will appear on the test
- 2 – 3 days before the exam – take a practice test. Compensate for any areas you may have gotten wrong
- Day before the exam – avoid cramming
- Short term memory only lasts 30 seconds – try to schedule your activities so cramming can be avoided
Special situations

- Instructors who test often – this makes it hard to thoroughly prepare. Your schedule will be compacted. Then again, more tests mean small failures don’t count for as much.

- Instructors who teach up to the day before the test – this is particularly true for night classes – I teach new material the session before the test. You can still prepare as usual, but that last chapter will have to be left off of your practice test, and added in last.
Test day

- If possible, practice healthy habits
- Good night’s sleep, nutritious meals
- Review all material briefly
- Review all problem types you struggle with
- Make sure you are prepared with pencils, eraser, calculator, ruler, scratch paper
- Plan to arrive early
- Try taking deep breaths to relax
- Try to avoid the ‘negative vibe’ from other students
During the exam

- Do a brain dump – quickly write down things you feel you may forget
- Survey the test – count the problems, calculate the time you can spend on each one
- Skip hard problems – get the easy ones done, then go back
- Be mindful of the time
- Review the test – check it quickly for any glaring mistakes or skipped problems before you turn it in
After the exam

- When you get your graded exam back, make sure you correct any mistakes in red pen, then file it back in your notebook for use in the final exam.
- Ask the instructor, other students, or a tutor if you are still confused about a problem.
- Final exams in math are usually cumulative – they cover all the material in a course.
- Your chapter tests should be a primary source for study material for the final.
- Your other primary source is your instructor – find out what you need to study to prepare for the final.
Putting it all together

- Page 83 – take five minutes to describe what techniques in this last section will be useful to you. Or, describe something that will not be useful to you, and explain why.
Assessment #2

- Worth 50 points
- Covers sections 6-10 of Math Study Skills
- Once you are done, you are free until March 29\textsuperscript{th}

*********** WARNING: **************

If you are having trouble with any material in this course up to now, do not ignore your math this entire break!

Take this time to review your trouble spots.

Stuff will just get harder in the last 5 weeks

E-mail me at rletterl@ivcc.edu if you have any questions during the break