

Emergency Studying

Here are some tips for how to study when you *definitely do not have enough time* to prepare thoroughly.

I. What not to do

1. Don't waste your time trying to read everything! You may be tempted to try to read everything and try to read it fast because you are afraid of being asked about a topic you haven't looked at. Don't!
2. Why not? Because if you read a large amount of material too fast, you will not have a good memory for it. You'll be confused and will only waste time.

II. What to do

1. Accept the fact that that you cannot study everything. Give up the goal of perfect studying- it's too late this time. You must make hard choices.
2. Relax...as best you can. You will remember more when you are relaxed. Breathe deeply and try to think calm thoughts.
3. Start by thinking of your professor. What knowledge do they emphasize in problems? Get those things as clear in your head as you can.
4. Look for valuable information in books and notes. Skip less important/ supplemental information. Scan pages to find what you want. Use clues like chapter subheadings, boldface type, summaries, etc.
5. When you find something important, try this:
 - a. Read the section slowly and give yourself time to understand it.
 - b. After you understand, memorize this way:
 - i. Read the line
 - ii. Look away
 - iii. Ask yourself a question that the information is the answer for
 - iv. Look back and check your accuracy
 - v. Repeat until you get it right twice
 - vi. Mark the place for review if there is time
6. Continue scanning pages and hunt for more information
7. Try to study some important things for each assigned chapter. Why? Because professors tend to try to balance questions among all parts of the material covered.
8. If you face an essay test rather than an objective test, you must usually memorize the material more completely because there won't be any clues available on the test.
9. Final advice. Study in advance next time and you won't need emergency studying!!

