



TAKING A MATH TEST

Besides knowing the content, it's important to know how to take the test

Skim the entire test

- See how long it is.
- Identify problems you know how to do right away and those that you know will take more time.

Work through problems in any order

- Start with the problems you know for sure you can do (high confidence). This builds confidence and momentum and ensures you don't miss any sure points just because you run out of time at the end.
- Then work the problems you think you could get right (medium confidence).
- Work through the problems you're least sure of (low confidence) last. Even if you run out of time, you've at least completed all the problems where you'll get the most points.

Time is of the essence

- Work as quickly as you can while still being accurate.
- If you get stuck on a problem and it's taking too much time, come back to it later.
- On a 50 minute exam, you have about 5 minutes for 10 point questions. If you spend a full five minutes on a single problem and still haven't completed it, move on. Do NOT spend 20 minutes on a single problem which will give you no or little points when there are other problems still to do.

If you have extra time, rework problems

- Don't just “check” your answers, rework the problem and make sure you get the same answer the second time.