

SHORT ANSWER EXAMS

Strategies

Short Answer Questions

Anticipating the Questions

- Short answer questions often appear from concepts and facts from the course. If you know there will be short answer questions on the exam, create a list of theories, terms, or concepts that you have covered in the course, and make sure you can identify them all in 4-5 sentences.

How to Study

- While studying for short answer questions you have to create a list of relevant terms and ideas from the course that you may be called on to describe. Once you have formed that list, make sure you understand everything on it and are able to describe it. While studying, look at the terms and describe them; also make sure you are able to identify the term from the description. This process will ensure that you have a fuller understanding of the material you are studying.

Group Studying

- While studying in a group, ask each other to describe terms from list you each create independently. This strategy will allow each of you to compare lists of what you consider important, forcing each member to improvise descriptions, and finally, compare answers.

Answering the Questions

- Write in simple, focused sentences.
- Read each question carefully and make note of key words that might change your answer.
- Check the marks allotted for each question to determine the length of your answer.
- Guessing is better than leaving the answer blank, but still try to offer an honest answer.