

SOME TIPS FOR STUDYING BIOLOGY

Reading your text

Your text should be read at least 3 times

1. Skim through each page to get the main ideas and the gist of what the author will be talking about.
2. After lecture return to the text and reread, taking notes and annotating your text. Pay particular attention to the diagrams and pictures. Also pay attention to the bold parts of the text. What are the main points? What do you understand what you found out and what you don't understand?
3. Take notes on the text. Write down the main ideas and the structure of the chapter. Compose a concise memo for the whole chapter or for particular parts of the chapter you need to know. Link the main ideas together. Connect the big concepts to the smaller ones. Do not study randomly.
4. Pay close attention to diagrams. This is not about understanding or memorizing, but understanding the concept of the diagram. Try to answer questions at the end of the chapter, paying attention to application type questions or questions that require thinking.

Studying Biology

1. Biology is almost a full-time job. You should cooperate with your learning with your notes making study with a friend. It is a good idea to have a study partner.
2. If lectures appear overwhelming with information, tape your lecture and take notes from the tape at a later time.
3. Biology is a complex process. Make sure you understand the basic concepts in detail before moving on to the next level.
4. Use the online support available through your textbook.
5. If you are having difficulty understanding a concept, try to find an animation or video that explains the process. For example, if you are having trouble understanding the process of photosynthesis, try to find an animation that explains the process.
6. Recite, review and reflect to help you remember. Make a list of key concepts and mnemonics to help you remember. Use flashcards to help you remember.
7. Take notes, use concept maps, outlines, diagrams and flowcharts. Study with a friend. What works best for you?

COUNTDOWN FOR A TEST

As the semester is near, it might seem like there is a mountain of information to learn. The task may seem impossible, but if you plan it is EASY.

6th day before the test: Create a list of subjects, such as Fungi, Plant, Lower Animals, etc. There should be 6-8 subjects. Review your notes and circle any things that you don't understand. Look in the book or ask your professor, TA or another student for help. You are now 1/6 of the way for the countdown.

5th day: Start your study of subjects for the exam tomorrow. Use notecards for names and examples.

Study with a friend. Reward yourself when you finish only when you can pass the test on that subject.

3rd day: Again, quiz yourself or test yourself with a friend. Do this for each category or material.

2nd day: Do the test thing again today. If there is a 4th category, learn that today. If not, test yourself on the other 3.

A good thing to do this day is to get together with a friend for a study session. The night before the test may not be a good time to do this because a person may interfere with you or you may be too tired to study. You can teach biology to a friend, you learn a lot!

1st day: Review your notes on all the subjects.

DAY BEFORE THE TEST: Make a list of all the highlights that you don't know. STUDY these and the highlights on the notes one last time. Remember you should know everything like the back of your hand. SIT DOWN AND RELAX. DON'T CRAM. You should be relaxed early on the day of the test. Don't cram. You should be relaxed early on the day of the test. Don't cram. You should be relaxed early on the day of the test. Don't cram.

TIMING: You should start your study at least 10 days before the exam. This gives you a lot of time for other things. A 10-day study plan is a good idea. This gives you a lot of time for other things. A 10-day study plan is a good idea. This gives you a lot of time for other things. A 10-day study plan is a good idea.

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Read the question carefully.
2. Trust your instincts. Do not randomly choose an answer because you are unsure you are correct. Often, first instincts are the best bet.
3. Always try to guess what the answer is BEFORE you look at the choices.
4. If you are unsure about an answer, or eliminate what you know to be wrong, try to remember if any of the words in the question or the choices are familiar.
5. If you recognize a choice, then it is probably NOT the answer.
6. After eliminating all other choices, make a logical guess. At least you have narrowed how many choices you have to guess. A guess that is usually more reasonable than a random one.
7. If after a few seconds you are still unsure, mark the question and return to it later. Do not waste time on a question you cannot answer. You have a 20-25% chance of getting it right anyway.

ALL OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS: If 2 or more of the answers are correct, then all of the above options is the correct answer.

LOOK-ALIKE OPTIONS: Questions that have options that are alike a word. Such as "all of the above" or "none of the above".

QUESTIONS WITH ALL OR NOTHING MODIFIERS: Questions that say "all of the following" or "none of the following" are usually incorrect because something is rarely always or never.

QUESTIONS WITH BOTH OF THE ABOVE OR THE OTHER TWO OPTIONS: ANSWERS (such as a and b or b and c as an option) are usually correct, especially if there are more than 5 options. Instructors want to test how much you know.