## **5 DAY TEST PREPARATION PLAN**

Course & Exam	Target Grade	5 Days before Exam	4 Days before Exam	3 Days before Exam	2 Days before Exam	1 Day before Exam
-SAMPLE- Philosophy Exam Thursday 25 multiple choice questions Details important Use example test	В	Saturday Organize all material Determine most difficult areas	Sunday Study most difficult areas Read out loud Make note cards Define terms Make audio tapes SEE TUTOR	Monday Study rest of material Read out loud Define terms Make concept map Visit office hours	Tuesday Study all material Go to review session Review note cards Listen to tapes Tutor available for questions	Wednesday Review briefly Confirm any final questions GO TO BED EARLY

## THE FIVE-DAY TEST PREP PROGRAM

5	days before a test, look over all the material – text, lecture notes, handouts – to be covered, and get
	organized.
	* Isolate the difficult areas that give you problems.
	* Section off the remaining material into organized, easy-to-handle amounts.
	* <b>Decide</b> which study tools you can create to organize and improve your review.
	flash cards or master lists summary sheets time lines
	comparison/contrast charts diagrams or flow charts speed-study diagram
	mind maps (visual outlines) formal outlines mnemonic devices
	audio tapes of important concepts NOTE: color-code ideas to improve recall
	* Choose which study strategies you can use for improved concentration, comprehension,
	and recall.
	<ul> <li>self-test on all chapter highlighting</li> <li>answer chapter or study guide questions</li> <li>self-test on all chapter summaries</li> <li>self-test on all lecture notes</li> </ul>
	answer chapter or study guide questions self-test on all lecture notes
	rework homework and quiz questions memorize in short, intense daily reviews attend a review session predict & answer possible test questions
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	<ul> <li>use all senses to memorize; in each review, see it, say it, hear it, write it</li> <li>at the end of a page in text or notes, formulate test questions, answer aloud</li> </ul>
	at the end of a page in text of notes, formulate test questions, answer aloud recite aloud: read a paragraph or page, then look away and explain concepts aloud
	take turns with a study partner to test each other on flash cards, etc.
	* Write out a 5 Day Test Preparation Plan (form on back).
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4	days before the test, begin with difficult, problem areas.
•	* Study intensively – reread a section, combine the information with lecture notes on the
	topic, and really put your mind to understanding it. It's not enough to recognize
	material; you need to be able to <i>produce</i> it. Test yourself by reciting information aloud
	in your own words. Explain concepts, define terms, ask and answer questions.
	* If you can't say it, you don't know it! Go back and study it again.
	* If you still have problems after this study session, you'll still have time to get help from
	professor, tutor, or classmate before the test.
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3	days before the test, study all the remaining, easier material. Again, use recitation for thorough
5	
	understanding and retention.
2	
_	days before the test, study all the material thoroughly from beginning to end, as if the test were the
	next day. Put the most time and effort into studying on this day. Review the parts you know well; put
	more effort into the difficult areas. To simulate the test, ask yourself possible test questions or have
	someone else quiz you.
	For essay exams, try this step-by-step process:
	<ul> <li>Come up with about ten possible essay questions, using your notes and text as sources.</li> <li>Outline a brief answer to each, covering the key points you would need to make to earn</li> </ul>
	full credit. Use your notes and text as if this were an open-book test.
	* Reduce the outlined answer to key words that will trigger your memory. <i>Memorize</i> those
	key words, using mnemonic devices like acronyms, peg words, or loci.
	* Even if you don't encounter those exact questions, you will have categorized and
	organized the course content. You will have processed the information in terms of
	being tested, putting it at your command and better preparing you to answer
	related questions.
4	
1	day before the test, review briefly and get a good night's sleep! Over the course of five days, you will

have studied all of the material three times. Sleep will help you recall and use all that you have

learned.