

How to do your best when writing an exam

READ CAREFULLY

- Read the instructions several times, then read over the questions that you will be answering.
- Underline key words and ideas that may be used to answer the questions.

SHOW YOUR SKILLS

- For some questions, you will be asked to give an explanation or show more than one way to solve a problem.
- Make sure your answers are clearly written and easy for the reader to understand. You may choose to include examples, graphs, tables, or diagrams to support your answer.
- Remember in mathematics that **work must be shown** along with the correct answers to receive full marks.

BE EXAM SMART

- Try every question. Even an attempt at an answer could be worth some marks.
- Budget your time so that you do not feel pressured.
- Review your paper before you hand it in.

TRY TO RELAX

This might seem impossible. However, studies have shown that by relaxing, you will increase your ability to recall facts, stay focused, and organize your thoughts.

Before the exam, be prepared, get a good sleep and eat a healthy breakfast. Give your best possible effort during the exam.



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

GRADE 8 COMMON EXAMINATIONS

Mathematics & English Language Arts

A guide for students



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

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Getting ready...

START NOW

The best ways to prepare for the Grade 8 common examinations are to establish good study habits and to have a positive attitude. The work that you do in class helps you to prepare for the exam.

- Start by actively participating in every class. You will gain confidence by sharing the mathematics and language arts skills you are learning with others in the class and by keeping up with assignments.
- Read a variety of materials such as newspapers, magazines, books and articles. Research shows that the more you read, the better reader you will become. The same is true about your writing skills.
- Review and correct the errors you have made on tests and assignments because you learn from your mistakes.
- You will probably find it helpful to keep a folder or portfolio of assignments and different styles of writing you try, as these will be useful for review.
- Think about how to show your strengths as a learner.

STUDY TIPS

You will be asked to show what you know on the exams. The following study tips may help:

- Keep your study sessions short and frequent.
- Practice being an active reader. Think about what you are reading and reflect on the material after you have finished.
- Create your own strategies. (e.g.) make summaries of important materials, keep a list of direction words with definitions.
- Make a study checklist of important information you might need to know for the exam.



WHAT TO STUDY

The process of reading and the process of writing will be part of the English Language Arts Exam. You can review language arts skills well in advance of the exam. Practice planning for different types of writing assignments.

In mathematics, you can review your skills by completing your assignments and reviewing the sample exam questions your teachers will provide.

SUGGESTED STUDY CALENDAR

Prepare a calendar a few weeks before the exam date. Schedule time to study the items on your study checklist. As the exam date nears, you should be crossing off items as you review them.

EXAM MATERIALS

You are responsible for providing your own materials — pens, HB pencils and eraser — for writing the exams.

Your mathematics exam should be written in HB pencil. The final copy of your English Language Arts writing assessment should be done in ink.

All of your work should be done in the exam booklets.

USE OF CALCULATORS

Each day of the mathematics exam consists of seven questions in Part I that will be done without the use of a calculator. Use your mental math, estimation skills and knowledge of basic facts to complete your work. For the rest of the exam, you are encouraged to use your calculator.

