

Tips for Math and Physics

Reading your textbook

- Remember there will be many terms and equations. Don't let them overwhelm you! Take them slowly and one at a time.
- Think big! Do not get overly involved in memorizing specific details until you understand the underlying principals
- Physics and Math are problem-solving disciplines. Your goal is to understand and solve problems.
- Look for relationships among topics.
- Skim the text for a preview of the lecture.
- Try to figure out questions that could be answered through reading the chapter, then read actively with these questions in mind.
- Stop frequently and try to recall what you just read. Repeating material aloud will make a big difference.
- When you find a section that applies directly to an assigned problem, read it, the stop and work the problem immediately.

Taking Your Tests

- Read **all** directions and follow all of them in an orderly way.
- Read all numbers and symbols carefully. Watch for decimal points and commas.
- Do not read into the problem something that is not there.
- After reading the problem, start writing. If you don't know where to start, try sketching something. Try any possible method, it may trigger the right one.
- Only way to study is to practice problems. Looking at sample problems doesn't give you much; you must *DO THEM*, and then check them to make sure they are correct.
- Memorize all the formulas you may need. As soon as you are given the exams, write the formulas on the sheet before you read the first problem.
- Make sure your calculator batteries are fresh.
- Write clearly: keep 7's, 2's and z's separate.
- Stay calm.
- If you can't work a problem, move on to the next.
- Attempt all problems since there is almost always partial credit.
- Ask if you may work over if you run out of time.
- You can't cram math and physics. Keep up day to day.

Attacking your homework

- Read problems completely
- Decide what is asked for and write it down.
- Reread the problem
- Ask what facts are given?
- Put as much as possible into mathematical terms (use units to help you. m/s measures velocity, etc)
- Draw a diagram or picture whenever possible
- Estimate a logical answer
- Decide on a method to solve problems
- Check your work

