

Exam Tips

Align your study strategy with your learning style, your course content, and the type of exam (e.g., multiple choice, short answer, or essay). Below are a few strategies to explore. Join one of our exam preparation workshops, posted on Experience BU, for more strategies.

Multiple-Choice and Short-Answer Exams

Make charts.

Charts can help collect and compare concepts, theories, and detailed information.

- 1. Create headings that make sense for your course content.
- 2. Put similar terms together so you can compare definitions and examples.
- 3. Fold over or cover up page columns to review and test yourself.

Examples:

Term/Theory	Definition/Details	Example/Application/Significance

Element	Structure	Properties

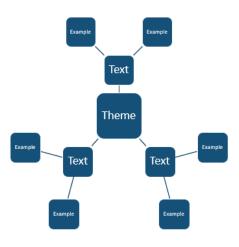
Formula/Key Word	Steps/Example	Information it Provides

Essay

Make Mind Maps.

Mind Maps can help you make connections between key course themes and the course content.

- 1. Review main course concepts and themes. (Your course description and lecture topics are a great place to start.) Place each in the centre of the Mind Map.
- 2. For each concept and theme, think of texts/films/readings/theories you can use to discuss the concept or theme. Then identify specific examples.



TH 129 Next to the Market



Email: learning@brocku.ca



Equations and Formula Exams

Mix it up.

Mixing up different types of questions helps you prepare for exams because you'll practice problem analysis. (What type of problem is this? How do I solve it?)

- 1. Practice questions (from textbook, lectures, previous exams etc.)
- 2. Create practice tests and mix up different types of questions.

Create review lists.

For every question that you practice and answer incorrectly, list information you didn't know or that you missed in the question.

1. Complete this sentence:

If I'd known _____, and that _____, and if I'd understood _____, I would have been able to answer the question.¹

- 2. Turn each missed item (in the blanks) into a question and add it to your list. (You can have multiple items for one question!)
- 3. Review items in your list as well as continuing to practice equations.

Example:

Imagine that you need to solve this equation,

$$\sum_{x=2}^{5} x^2 + 4x - 4$$

and you couldn't solve it because you didn't know the summation notation.

"If I had known the summation notation and how to solve for it, I would have been able to answer the question."

Question	Answer
How do you solve an equation	Add up the sum of x, where i takes the value from 1 to N
with $\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i$	

Sign up for free workshops, available for all Brock students https://experiencebu.brocku.ca/

Drop by our Drop-In service in the Student Success Centre. See schedule: https://brocku.ca/learning-services/#dropin-writing

9

TH 129 Next to the Market

Email: learning@brocku.ca

Brocku.ca/learning-services

905-688-5550 ext. 5774

¹ Condon, M. C. (2011). *NCLEX High-Risk: The Disaster Prevention Manual for Nurses Determined to Pass the RN Licensing Examination*