Before you take another test (such as the PSAT, SAT, Pre-ACT, or ACT), review these helpful tips and strategies! Using these study methods can make a difference in your results and also help you feel prepared on the day of your test!

**Take plenty of time to prepare for the test**
- Mark your calendar for the day of the test and schedule study time in advance.
- If possible, try to start studying 3-6 months before your test date.
- Make a study schedule. If you have free time to practice over the summer, try to start studying!
- Start with studying 1-2 hours per week, and slowly increase your study time.
- Spread your study time over several days, weeks, or even months.
- Prepare your study area. Keep it free of distractions such as cell phones, noise, and clutter.

**Get comfortable with the test**
- Take the practice tests as often as possible. Test experts suggest taking at least two practice tests before you take your exam—take the first practice test before you officially start studying, and a final practice test closer to your test date. Familiarize yourself with the instructions and types of questions for each test section.
- Time yourself! Practice taking the tests in the designated amounts of time. Learn how to pace yourself.
- Know your strengths and weaknesses. Focus your studies on improving areas of weakness.

**Diversify your study methods**
- Students retain and remember information best when they vary the ways they learn.
- Use both written/print practice guides and test prep books, and on-line resources such as the Learning Express Library website [https://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/browse/eLibrary/Pages/eLearning/eLearning.aspx](https://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/browse/eLibrary/Pages/eLearning/eLearning.aspx)
- Take notes while reading study guides and subject matter. Keep your notes organized!
- Put together a study sheet to focus on concepts or things that you need to focus on most.
- Make some flashcards for memorizing test material.
- Use the website [quizlet.com](http://quizlet.com) for flashcard games and other study techniques!
- If you don’t understand something, ask for help. You may consider getting a tutor. You can also form a study group or team up with a study buddy who you can review things with. Working together will make studying easier!

**Improve your skills**
- Take challenging courses throughout your high school career.
- Ask questions and take notes in class.
- Use school tutoring if you are having trouble with your coursework.
- Read, read, and read some more! Read newspapers, magazine articles, non-fiction, and fiction books to build your vocabulary. If you ever see an unfamiliar word, make sure to look up its definition!

**On the day of the test**
- Make sure to get a good night’s sleep, eat a good breakfast, and have all materials ready for the day of the test.
- Take a snack with you so you don’t get hungry in the middle of the test!
- Arrive early on the day of the test so you do not feel rushed.
- Ask for clarification if you do not understand the test directions.

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