

# EXAM PREPARATION



## BREAK DOWN THE MATERIALS

Many classes will have multiple exams, and each exam will cover only the contents most recently taught. For example, a course with two exams and a final is likely to have Exam 1 cover Weeks 1-5, Exam 2 cover Weeks 6-10, and the Final cover everything but with special emphasis on Weeks 11-14.

It's likely you know certain parts of the material better than others. Break down the class into manageable conceptual chunks, assess yourself (perhaps 1-2 exam problems) on each chunk, and figure out what chunks you should prioritize. This will also help you naturally relate practice problems to concepts covered in class. Syllabi will often organize topics for you.

### **For example, in 14.13, Psychology and Economics's syllabus break down is:**

1. Time Preferences
2. Risk Preferences and Reference Dependence
3. Social Preferences
4. Learning, Attention, and Heuristics
5. Markets, Nudges, and Policy
6. Applications: Poverty, Happiness, Discrimination

## REVIEW PREVIOUS MATERIALS


The extent to which you should review before an exam depends on your understanding and the materials made available to you. As a baseline: if there are any points of confusion regarding lecture notes or problem set questions, now is the time to sort them out.


If no additional material is provided, then this should be sufficient. Usually, however, there will be supplementary material in the form of practice problems or past exams. Different students will approach this content in different ways.

### **For example, this is how one student reviewed:**

1. Skimmed all personal notes. Over the course of the class, had taken notes for every lecture, and some recitations.
2. Completed the first practice exam, taking half of the allotted time for each question, or skipping if unable to solve it under time constraints. This both saved time and enabled understanding the material deeply and making connections quickly.
3. Reviewed supplementary material for the lectures corresponding to the problems that was not able to solve in the first go-around.
4. Completed a second practice exam in the same procedure as the first, this time with much better results.

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