

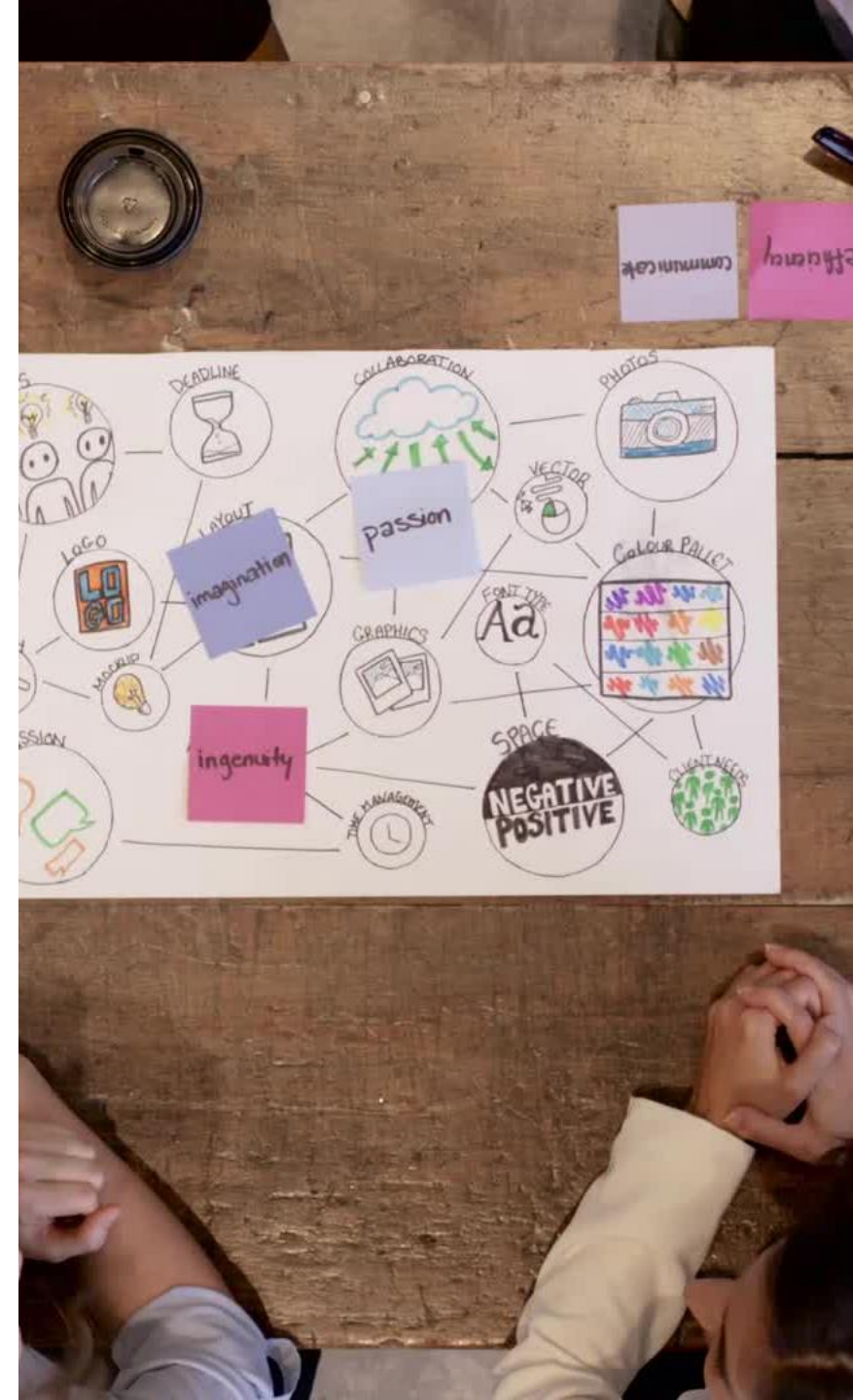
Math Test Taking Strategies

Math Learning Center

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Note-taking

- Write all the information that the instructor writes on the board
- Try to write information your instructor is saying and not writing on the board
- If your instructor is spending a lot of time on a concept, make a note that this might be an important concept
- Draw diagrams and tables to explain the information (concept maps)



Managing time

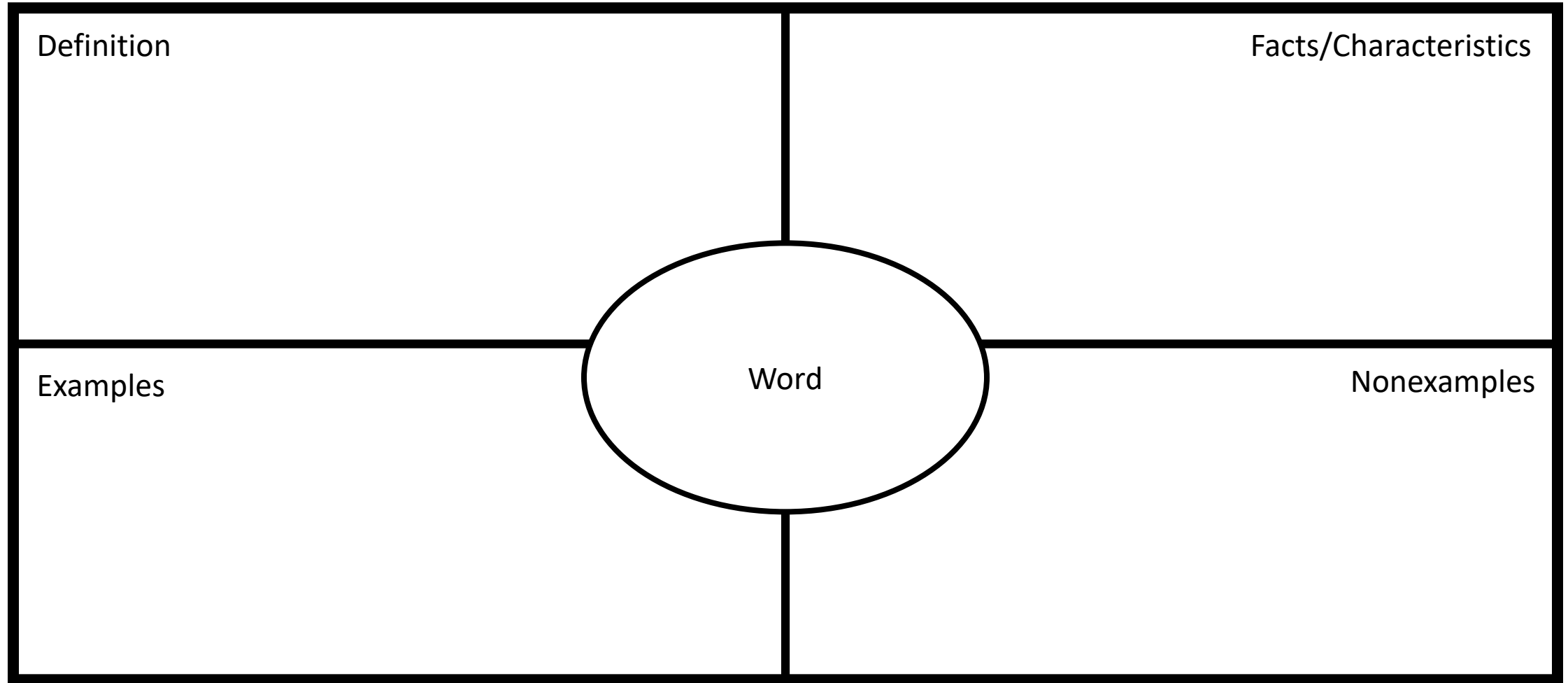
- Set realistic times you should study
- Set study goals
- Make sure to schedule relaxation time



Doing homework

- Write down questions as you complete your homework
- Use a separate notebook for the hardest questions
- Create a mathematical dictionary
 - Frayer model
- Review your mistakes

Frayer Model



Make a
cheat sheet
– even if you
can't use it.

- Make a note sheet that you can bring with you when you are out and about.
- Summarize each section that will be on the final. Write formulas and concepts that were important in each section.
- Try to find patterns or extensions between the different sections.
- If you are unclear on the connections, talk with your instructor, TA or go to tutoring.
- If you are really stuck, keep doing problems that are similar. You can even google _____ worksheet.

- Definitions
 - Formulas
 - Things to look for
 - General equations
-
- Bring the flash cards with you. Review them in your spare time.

Make flash cards



- Don't practice until you get it right.
- ***Practice until you can't get it wrong.***

Exam Structure

- Find out the exam structure
- When and where is the exam
- How much time will you have
- What kinds of questions will be on the exam





Do all the problems on the exam reviews.



Make sure you understand the problems.



Don't "crossword" google. If you don't understand a problem, keep working on it until you do. Go to your instructor, TA or tutoring if you need help.

Exam Reviews



Analyze the exam review to see if you can find the different sections that will be on the exam.



Focus your time on where you are struggling.



Try different problems of the same type.



Review parts that you do understand.

Exam Reviews

Look up old exams

- Most of the old exams are posted
- Note: answer keys are not posted
- <https://www.library.wisc.edu/amp/services/course-reserves-exams/>



1. Get a good night's sleep before taking a test.
2. Start studying at least three days ahead of time (finals start at least a week a head of time)
3. Don't try to learn new material the night before the exam
4. Only review already learned material the night before an exam.
5. Get up in the morning at your usual time if possible.
6. Eat a normally throughout the day.
7. Review your notes/cheat sheet right before the exam.

Right before the exam

Taking the Exam

1. Use a memory data dump – write down the information you were reviewing right before the exam.
2. Preview the exam.
3. Do a second memory data dump.
4. Develop a test progress schedule.
5. Answer the easiest problems first.
6. Complete the difficult problems you know how to do.
7. Tackle the toughest problems.
8. Try the remaining problems – write down what you know about the problem
9. Review the test
10. Use all your allotted time.



Resources

- Visit office hours
- Go to tutoring
- Make a study group