

Dyslexics Needing Exam

Tips



Sitting any exam as a student with Dyslexia can be intimidating and daunting, try and visualize the words Exam/Test and change it to

KNOWLEDGE this is all the teachers want to know, is how much KNOWLEDGE you have on a particular subject. The following is some tips and methods that will help you cope with the situation.

Before the KNOWLEDGE PAPER

*It is important to make all classes prior to the KNOWLEDGE PAPER as the teacher will probably explain and go over all the material which is the most important and give tips on the areas to study that questions may be asked.

*If you can find out what will be covered in the KNOWLEDGE PAPER (e.g. only certain chapters, characters, just since the last KNOWLEDGE PAPER or is it all you have learned for the term.)

*Ask the teacher what format may be used in the KNOWLEDGE PAPER (short answer, multiple choice, true-false, problem or combination or maybe it might be essay type questions.)

*As you know last minute cramming is not for everybody. We all retain information differently and some of us cannot recall clearly all we would like to be able to at short notice it can leave us feeling tired and very anxious. Try to avoid thinking or doing any study the night before. Concentrate on doing something fun and physical so you get a good restful night sleep and wake up refreshed.

*The time for your KNOWLEDGE PAPER will have already been given to you, arrive in plenty of time to prepare yourself. Try to avoid the people who seem overly anxious as this can easily be transferred to yourself and then you will perform poorly because of nerves.

*Be sure you have all the equipment required to sit your paper: Spare pens, pencils, ruler and maths equipment etc. An extra battery for your calculator if necessary, maybe open/seen book equipment for your paper, a watch...



Revision

*Material in your study folders should be organized into topics covered in your course. You could also do a separate front dividing sheet either by color or something you can stick on and feel like sandpaper, silk, leather etc You then put a small piece of the same material on a ring and clip it to your pencil case that you take to the KNOWLEDGE PAPER and when you feel the same piece of

material all your information can come back to you.

*When reading through your folders try and see the main points in the topic as a whole piece of information first before you break it into any detail. It is easier to remember small details if you know how they fit into the overall picture.

*There are many ways of reviewing material e.g. memory, reciting out loud, writing it down, highlighting points, talking it over with a friend etc..

*If you go to the library you could look at old KNOWLEDGE PAPERS to get a feel for what may be asked.

*Look over previous KNOWLEDGE PAPERS your teacher may have given you and try and see if you have been consistently given the same type of questions to answer then you can predict which questions may come up.



*Try and do at least two practice

KNOWLEDGE PAPERS before the real thing

as you can get rid of some of your nerves and get to know the layout of the paper and the time involved it may take to answer questions.

*When doing essay papers try and organize your answers in to short responses and stick to the main points.

*Multiple choice questions can be a lot harder to study for and you have many variable questions that can be asked on a topic. Try and learn the overall structure of the material that may be covered and it will surprise you what information you have retained.

*Review cards work for some people, using small squares of card with one topic on each, review the main points for that topic in a few lines and condense it into a very brief summary so you can memorize it.

Writing the Actual Exam

*Take three deep breaths, this gives oxygen to the brain.

*Don't think you have to be like your friends, first finished.

Take the time to look through the whole knowledge paper.

Underline/highlight anything you consider to be important e.g instructions that may be given and how many points you have to cover in each question. Do not forget to put your name and ID# on your paper.

Be careful how you manage your time throughout the paper as some questions will need more time than others especially if they are worth more marks. Try and answer the questions you are confident about first then do the others.



Essay Questions

*Do a mind map quickly putting your ideas in order of how you are going to structure your essay. DON'T spend too much time doing this activity, get onto the writing as quickly as possible.

*In essay questions underline key words. These key words can be used to develop a quick short outline for the questions asked.

*When asked short answer or essay questions do this in order they are asked if you can't answer a question mark/highlight it and move onto the next one, come back to the one you missed later on.

*Remember you want a strong introductory statement when doing essay writing to hook your reader in and show you have understood the question asked. Your final paragraph is the conclusion and remember you do not want to repeat information already said but show how your answer has taken the argument forward and deal with any implications arising from it.

*Marks are not given for the amount of lines you write in an essay or response but it is in showing the teacher/marker that you have understood the question and answered it accordingly with information you know including quotes.

*Keep a watch on the time it is taking to write the essay remember the more it takes on any one question the less time you have for the others. If this occurs try and put main points down for the other questions, you will probably receive points for this but get nothing if you have not attempted to answer any of the others at all.

*Try and keep your writing legible. Teachers will not mark it if they cannot read it.

*When appropriate use diagrams to get your point across as they can explain something more clearly and quickly than using words.

*When finishing a question try and allow a minute or two to re-read what you have written and fix any errors.

Multiple Choice Questions

*If you are not going to get penalized, guess the answer if you don't know it, better to put something on the paper than nothing.

*In the case where you may lose marks for incorrect answers only answer ones you are certain about.

Final Five Minutes

Read through what you have written, correct mistakes. Make sure what you have written makes sense. Have you put all your points down? Named your paper? Could you add anything else to any of the questions?

**Congratulations you have survived your
KNOWLEDGE PAPER well done.**