These are some ways that successful students prepare for their tests that may help you do better on the next one.

1. Write down notes
   1. Organize them and expand them as soon as you can after the lecture
   2. Ask someone if you don’t understand something
   3. Highlight key terms, titles, subtitles
   4. Write out key things like concepts and definitions
   5. Use your own words. If you cannot do this then you have not learned it.
2. Use Flash cards
   1. Summarize your notes
      1. Organize them using 1,2,3 or a,b,c or outline form (use this paper as a model)
   2. Flashcards for your vocabulary
   3. Use the objectives on the unit overview
3. Study out loud while walking around the room (kinesthetic learners)
   1. This keeps you alert and not bored, keeps the blood and oxygen moving to your brain
   2. 80% reciting, 20% reading is a good mix
   3. Act it out
   4. Teach it to a relative, friend, or a pet (this reinforces and tells you if you really understood it)
4. Start studying for the exam as soon as you can.
   1. Waiting until the night before is too late and does not work
   2. Create a study schedule to organize your time – start at least a week before the test to review older information
5. Test yourself off of the cue cards & flash cards
6. Do practice tests
   1. Look up all unfamiliar words and concepts or ask your teacher, and write it down
   2. Make up practice problems from your Practice Assessments (you have the right answers)
   3. Use online practice tests
      1. [www.quizlet.com-](http://www.quizlet.com-) Make your own
      2. [www.PSCHool.com](http://www.PSCHool.com) - use the web code from the end of each chapter in your book
7. Use memory tricks / mnemonic devices
   1. Acronyms
      1. Make a word where each letter is the first letter in the word of a key phrase
         1. AHTOMIM: A-horizon: topsoil, organic matter, inorganic minerals
   2. Coined saying
      1. Ex. Righty tighty, lefty loosy for tightening & loosening caps and screws
   3. Interacting Images (these work best if they are weird)
      1. Ex: Tiny Lizards Sip Pepsi Daily. Graphs
      2. I Think My Cat Talks- Data tables
      3. King Henry Doesn’t Unusually Drink Chocolate Milk- Metric Prefixes
8. Study effectively for ½ hour than take a 5 minute break
9. Make a study place
   1. NOT your bed; not in your living room unless you are alone
   2. DO NOT have your Phone or other electronic devices in the same room with you
   3. Use a small desk lamp as a study lamp-use it *only* for studying, and face away from your bed or food.
10. Don’t under sleep. You make your memories long term when you are asleep.
11. While taking exams
    1. Multiple choice
       1. Flag questions the you are not sure
       2. Eliminate choices before guessing
       3. Only change your answer if you are sure
    2. Always check your answers before handing in the test