

## *PREPARE FOR ESSAY TESTS*

### *Preparing for Essay Tests*

Learn to recall information from your memory bank for essay tests, rather than recognize information as you would for objective tests.

1. Prepare a study schedule one week before the test
2. Organize and reduce your class notes and reading notes
3. Make study notes on each topic
4. Memorize and review your notes
5. Predict questions that may be on the test
6. Make your own essay test questions from your study notes
7. Outline your own answers to the questions
8. Practice writing an essay within the given time limits

### *Practice making your own Essay Questions*

Practice making and answering your own essay questions either alone or with study partners. There are five major types of questions: Identify, Describe, Relate, Demonstrate, and Evaluate. Each type of question has its “key terms” that help the student answer it.

**Identify** Questions ask for the bare facts only, to give a name, a date, or a phrase.

Key Terms: list, identify, classify, give an example, briefly define, name, state

Ex: *List the five key terms used for making up essay questions*

**Describe** Questions ask you to tell about the topic using a certain amount of detail.

Key Terms: describe, discuss, summarize, outline, trace, review

Ex: *Summarize the usage of the five key terms used for making up essay questions*

**Relate** Questions ask you to describe the relationships between two or more topics,

Key Terms: compare, contrast, compare and contrast, distinguish between

Ex: *Compare and contrast the differences between the five key terms used for making up essay questions*

**Demonstrate** Questions ask you to explain why something is true or false. You must make arguments and give evidence, and your answer will be essay length.

Key Terms: analyze, demonstrate, explain, interpret, discuss, justify, prove, show

Ex: *Explain why it is important to understand key terms when taking essay tests*

**Evaluate** Questions ask for your judgment or opinion on the topic. You must justify and support your stand in a logical and consistent manner.

Key Terms: evaluate, assess, criticize, interpret, give your opinion, justify, defend

Ex: *Evaluate your ability to use key terms for essay tests*