

Quit Cramming, Study Systematically

By LESLIE J. NASON, Ed. D., with HARRY KARNES

Today we are going to outline a plan that will help you get better grades on examinations.

First, let's look at a sad scene. Place: College dormitory. Time: The eve of semester exams.

Glassy-eyed, hollow-cheeked youths sit staring at books and notes amid coffee cups, cigarette butts, and sandwich scraps, trying to learn in a single night what they should have been learning in the past four and one-half months.

From their early days of high school to their last days of college, American students gear their study habits to the cram session. The idea is to skim the surface from day to day and catch up with a one-night blaze of intellectualism.

But the blaze somehow is never quite that hot.

Harold was a student at State College. He lived in a fraternity house. In each part of his daily study he had in the back of his mind that morbidly pleasant social event at the fraternity house



Quit Cramming



Adopt A Study System

on the night before examinations. This led him unerringly to a "C" average balanced precariously on the brink of "D."

We suggested that he get off the cram system and start a program of systematic study.

He tried it. At semester's end we asked him how he was doing. He had made "As" in all his tests.

"So—no more cramming!" Harold smiled sheepishly. "Well, to tell the truth, I don't cram anymore, personally. But the guys at the frat house sort of expect a fellow to show up at the exam sessions. So, I—er—well, I stay up with them all night."

We shook our head disapprovingly, but Harold added brightly: "Anyway, I make better grades than they do even though I do lose all that sleep."

Review For A Week Your preparations for exam day should not be an effort to sponge up everything at once. They should be an organized review over a period of several days, of what you have been sponging up (we hope) all along.

Now we are going to suggest ways of doing this review. Since different types of exams require slightly different methods, we will deal with several types separately.

Some courses, literature for example, lean heavily to exams of the essay type. In preparing for this type of exam try these steps:

1. Review the big, general pattern of the subject to be covered. Do this by reading the table of contents of the textbook and skimming through the chapters, looking at paragraph headings and summaries.
2. Go back through the table of contents, the chapter headings, and the summaries, asking yourself the questions and answering them. Make a question about each item in the table of contents. Write out answers to the questions you feel are most likely to be asked on the test.
3. Improve on your answers. Go over them with an eye for making them more exact. Go back over your lecture notes and the

marginal notes in your book. Essay-type tests require considerable writing, so at this point we want to stress once more how important it is to learn the art of penmanship. The physical act of writing should not be such a labor that it forms a barrier to the easy, swift, and precise expression of the thought.

Bill, a freshman at a large university, came to us holding a report card with a "D" in English like a dead load on the end of a stick. He was on the track team and, thanks to a sensible coach, had developed his legs pretty well. But somehow no sensible teacher had ever thought of teaching him to develop the fingers that held his pen.

We readied Bill for the next English exam by having him write a short paragraph over and over again for about 20 minutes each day. In four days his penmanship improved markedly, and his writing muscles got stronger. On the fifth day he got "B" on his exam.

Work Out A System While going through steps one, two, and three, mentioned above, it helps to relate one item of information to another. Make them all fit together. Make them mean something to one another. The more diversified, the more complete, you make these associations, the easier it will be to remember the data.

When you relate persons to events, shape a picture in your mind instead of merely memorizing some words. It helps sometimes to exaggerate the picture, to make a caricature of the personalities involved.

When you think of "Teddy" Roosevelt as the robust, buck-toothed, delighted leader of the Rough Riders, a whole flood of memories of his traits, and the events of his administration pours through the mind.

Napoleon wore a three-cornered hat and posed with his hand in his tunic. FDR clenched a cigarette holder in his teeth. John L. Lewis has shaggy eyebrows. These are some of the more obvious caricatures, but they suggest how you may give substance and color to more obscure personalities which it is your duty to remember.

When you get ready for a literature exam, you are faced with the problem of linking characters, authors, and settings, and the names of books. Connect the author's name with each character and each situation.

Thus: "Shakespeare developed a real skinflint in his character of Shylock in the Merchant of Venice."

Associate other characters in the play with Shylock. Study their effects on him and his on them. Remember, the more systematically you tie things together in your mind, the easier it is to recall them when you need them on examination day.

(Tomorrow: More tips on how to prepare for exam day.)

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CITY FIREMEN made an urgent trip to the Car-Ad-Co Mill in Pelican City late last week to find this unused piece of machinery afire in the yard. Damage was confined to the machine.

World Day Of Prayer Set Friday

United Church Women will observe World Day of Prayer at Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church Friday, Feb. 17. In addition to the worship service there will be a dramatic presentation, "With Tomorrow Yet to Come," and special music, "The 23rd Psalm," by a double trio. Child care will be provided.

Farm Groups Support Bill

SALEM (AP) — Oregon's three major farm organizations, which often disagree among themselves, Monday night joined in support of a bill to give volunteer farm groups greater power in bargaining for prices on their crops.

The organizations — Oregon Farm Bureau Federation, State Grange and Farmers' Union — said the bill would prevent processors from discriminating against the voluntary groups.

But opponents argued the bill would be a step toward labor-management type of bargaining and might institute "closed shop" conditions in agriculture.

The bill was given a hearing before the House Agriculture Committee.

Opposing it were many groups of canners and buyers.

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