



Do's & Don'ts of Exam Preparation

- Do's:**
- Create a study schedule — and stick to it.
 - Complete most or all your outlines before Reading Period.
 - Get enough food, sleep, and exercise while you are studying.
 - Research your professor's style of exams. Find out what types of exams and questions he or she is likely to ask. Remember all of the suggestions a professor makes about answering his or her exam questions.
 - Check your outline for completeness and accuracy by comparing it to the professor's syllabus, hornbooks, or other people's outlines.
 - Incorporate the professor's focus and style into your studying. If the professor emphasized particular concepts, counter-arguments or policies in class, you should be prepared to incorporate those ideas into your exam answers.
 - Study for open book exams as though they were closed book exams.
 - Memorize key definitions and elements of law, especially for a closed book exam.
 - Take as many practice exams as you can under exam-like conditions. Compare your answers with model answers or with your friends' answers.
 - If your professor offers to read your answer to a practice question, take advantage of it! This type of feedback is the best way to find out whether your answer is on the mark and matches the professor's expectations.
 - Try alternative study techniques, including making flashcards or creating flowcharts.
 - Make a spark sheet or checklist and use it to help memorize key terms and definitions.
 - If you have an open book exam, make your outline accessible by creating a table of contents or tabbing key parts.
 - Study each subject in small increments over a period of many days.
 - Prepare for the exam by gathering supplies (water, watch, earplugs, pens, etc.) or making sure that your computer is working properly.

- Don'ts:**
- Wait until the Reading Period to write your outlines.
 - Rely primarily on someone else's outline, commercial outlines, or study aids.
 - Study materials and topics not covered in your class.
 - Assume that an open book exam requires less study time. It is unlikely that you will have much time to consult materials during an open book exam.
 - Cram your studying into the few days before the exam.
 - Pull an all-nighter before an exam.
 - Forget successful study techniques you used as an undergraduate. If you have a method for studying that has worked for you before, try it in law school, too.
 - Study for long periods of time without taking breaks. Studies show that the average person can only concentrate for 50 minutes. After that, your ability to learn and attention span decline.
 - Procrastinate.