

# **AGCS: Midterm and Final Survival Guide**



**Helpful tips for being successful on your  
midterm and final exams**



At Avon Grove Charter School all high school students will take midterm and final exams for all classes which meet for an entire academic year. These exams are each worth 10% of your final grade. Midterms usually occur in mid-January and finals are typically in June. Generally, two exams are scheduled for each day.

This guide will help you to prepare for midterms and finals. *If you are in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and this is your first time taking a test of this nature this guide is made especially for you!*

### Preparing for your exams:

**Organization:** This is one of the most effective study skills and it is one of the most often overlooked. Creating a study timetable allows you to set yourself study goals and assign a timescale in which to achieve them. Having a study timetable also increases your motivation to sit down and learn. Below is an example of a study timetable. Set-up your time table based on your individual needs. If a subject is difficult for you, you may want to schedule extra study time for that class.

		Mon., 1-11	Tues., 1-12	Wed., 1-13	Thurs., 1-14	Fri., 1-15
		<b>Complete Study Guides and Organize Notes</b>	<b>Complete Study Guides and Organize Notes</b>	<b>Finish Study Guides and Begin Studying for English and Spanish</b>	<b>Study World History, Concepts A, Biology</b>	
Sat., 1-16	Sun., 1-17	Mon., 1-18	Tues., 1-19	Wed., 1-20	Thurs., 1-21	Fri., 1-22
<b>Study World History and Concepts A</b>	<b>Study World History and Biology</b>	<b>Study English and Spanish</b>	<b>English Midterm</b>	<b>World His. Midterm</b>	<b>Biology Midterm</b>	
			<b>Spanish Midterm</b>	<b>Concepts A Midterm</b>		
			<b>Study World History + Concepts A</b>	<b>Study Biology</b>		

**Do you know your learning style?** Understanding the best study techniques for you is key to effective learning and your consumption of new information. Some people prefer to read, while others prefer to listen. Some people learn best by doing while others like to plan things out logically. Understanding how to get the most out of your style of learning will help you in the long-run. It will also impact how you approach and plan your study as an exam approaches. Make an appointment with your school counselor to discover your learning style and the most effective ways you can study.

## Learning Styles

### VERBAL

Words are your strongpoint!  
You prefer to use words both in speech and in writing!

### VISUAL

You prefer to use pictures, diagrams, images and spatial understanding to help you learn

### MUSICAL / AUDITORY

You prefer using sounds or music or even rhythms to help you learn.

### PHYSICAL / KINAESTHETIC

You use your hands, body and sense of touch to help you learn. You might 'act things out'.

## WHAT'S YOUR LEARNING STYLE?

### LOGICAL / MATHEMATICAL

Learning is easier for you if you use logic, reasoning, systems and sequences.

### SOCIAL

You like to learn new things as a part of a group. Explaining your understanding to a group helps you to learn.

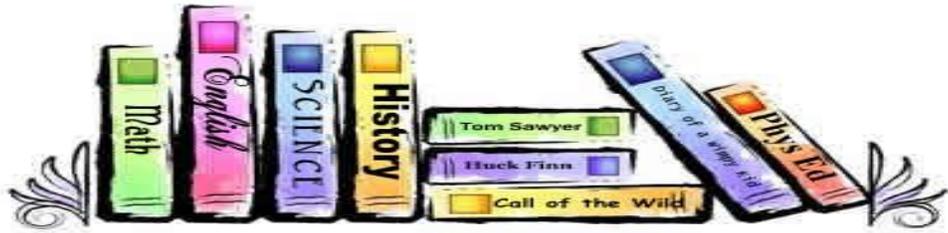
### SOLITARY

You like to work alone. You use self-study and prefer your own company when learning.

### COMBINATION

Your learning style is a combination of two or more of these styles.

## Studying from your Class Notes:



Taking notes alone is not enough. You also need to know how to use your notes effectively. Some tips for efficiently studying notes are listed below. If done regularly, these steps can be completed in 15 minutes or less.

1. **Review all new notes within 24 hours of class.** Then, go back and briefly review all notes taken since the last test for each class. Reading notes immediately and repeatedly, even for just a few minutes, takes advantage of the way your brain operates. You will no longer have to labor over memorizing notes because you will solidly know the information.
2. **Record any information or visuals you remember from class** but did not have time to write down. Highlight items for which you have questions or simply do not understand. Ask your teacher about these items in class the next day.
3. **Create questions that summarize important points in your notes.** You can also think of potential exam questions that could be developed from the information in your notes.
4. **Review your notes by reading them out loud.** When you read silently, your brain only processes information through your eyes. When you read notes out loud, your brain processes information through your eyes (reading), your mouth (speaking), and your ears (hearing.) This increases your brain's ability to recall information on tests.

### Studying Math Notes

Many students do not understand what it means to “study” for a math test. Studying conjures images of reading and memorizing a lot of notes, which is usually not very typical for math. While there are occasional notes taken in math class (i.e. vocabulary terms and sample problems), most of your math notes will actually come from your homework. Studying for a math test means not only studying vocabulary, but doing your homework regularly and paying attention to corrections made in



class. It means learning from mistakes and doing practice problems to prepare for a test. Make sure that you go back and redo the problems with which you had trouble. Complete practice problems in study guides, from your book, and use the online resources your teacher has provided.

## The Week Before the Exam

The week before the exam is NOT the time to start studying. The week before your mid-term exams is a time for review and have last minute questions answered by your teacher. If you have created a study timetable and followed your schedule consistently, you should be in a healthy position for your midterms.

It is important to note that you do not need to cover every topic 100%. Many subjects do not require you to learn every topic in a course syllabus; you can usually leave out some areas. **Your study guide will provide you with important clues on which topics and concepts on which to focus most of your studying time.**

### Exam Format:

The week before the exam is when you should double-check that you know the format of the exam. Having an in-depth knowledge of the exam format is imperative. Your teacher should talk you through the format and if they don't, make sure to ask. Before you enter the exam you should know how long you have, the different sections and how much each section is worth, the different types of exam questions in each section and how long you should spend on each question.

### Multiple Choice Tips:

\*After reading the question, try to think of the correct answer BEFORE you read your options.

\*Read all answers first. Sometimes, item "A" will sound correct, but item "C" may end up being more appropriate.

\*Cross out items that you know are wrong and then choose your answer from the remaining options.

\*Answers with phrases like "all of the above" and "both a and b" are likely to be correct choices, but only use this tip if you are really stuck.

\*The longest answers are also likely to be the correct choices, but again, only use this clue if you have no other ideas.

### Fill-in-the-Blank Questions:

\*Look for grammar clues that may give hints, such as the word “an” that will indicate that the answer begins with a vowel, or something that indicates a plural work, past tense verb, etc.

\*Sometimes the length and/or number of blanks may be a hint.

\*After you have filled in the blanks, reread the statement with your answer to make sure that your answer makes sense in the sentence.

### Essay Questions:

\*In the margin or on scratch paper, write a brief outline of the major points you want to include in your answer. This will help you write an organized, logical, and concise answer. Teachers do not want to read lengthy responses. They prefer short and to the point answers.

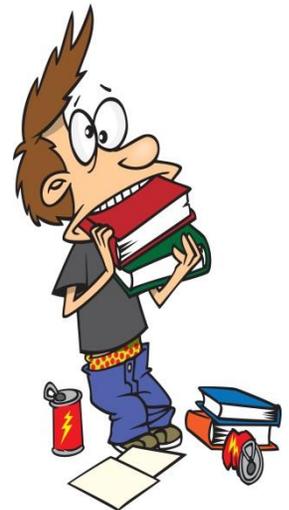
\*Begin your answer by restating the question. Remember, get to the point quickly.

\*Write neatly! It is definitely NOT to your advantage to frustrate your teacher.

## The Night before an Exam

### **DO NOT CRAM!**

No student should be proud having done an ‘all-nighter’ – these are counter-productive. You should instead focus on making sure you have everything you need for the exam. Eat well and go to bed early. Relax as much as possible. You can read over any summary notes or sample questions you may have, but you shouldn’t be studying something you have not already covered in the previous weeks.



Think positive. Don't focus on what could go wrong during your exam. Just remember that you have prepared for your midterms and you're ready to accomplish the best result you can!

## The Day of the Exam



Wake up early so that you don't need to rush through having your breakfast and getting ready. Eating breakfast is super important on exam days! Try to eat some protein to give yourself more energy to keep you full longer. It is hard to concentrate on an empty stomach...

Before leaving home, check that you have everything that you will need – pencils, calculators, formula sheets, etc.

Go to the bathroom before the exam starts. You don't want to waste precious time.

If there are people around who are panicking, avoid them. They are not doing you any favors!

Remember to write your name on the exam paper. You would not believe how many people have forgotten to do it!



Read all the exam questions carefully before starting and quickly plan how much time to allocate to each one.

Start answering the questions that you feel most confident about. There is no need to answer the questions in order.



If your brain freezes, just start writing anything and you will soon start remembering more details.

Don't spend more time than you planned on a particular section/question or you might run out of time to answer other questions! Also, leave any questions that you are unsure about for the end.

Don't be afraid to ask the teacher if you are not clear on a question.

Use every minute of the exam and if you have time left, review your answers before handing back the paper.

**Stay calm, you have done your homework and have nothing to fear!**