

Final Exams - Commonly Asked Questions First Semester January 17-19, 2012

What are finals/ final exams?

Final exams are comprehensive tests that are given at the end of each semester. Most final exams last for one hour. However, the high school level classes, such as foreign language, last one hour and twenty minutes.

Your final will cover material from several units of study and may cover everything taught within this school year. The final will not cover new material (everything will have been addressed in class prior - through an activity, lesson, assignment, etc. However, you may not have been TESTED on the material before the final.)

In addition, sixth grade will have a three day in class project that will combine several language art skills. This project will be similar to the Heritage Project. Sixth grade students will receive detailed instructions during the time set aside (second final exam slot for seventh and eighth grade students) and must bring all assigned resources with them each day. Again, the specific resources will be assigned by the language arts teachers in January and will also be posted on the website in January along with other final exam information.

What will be on the final?

Each of your teachers will give you a study guide at least one week prior to your scheduled exam. This may be in written form, notes on the board, or through oral instructions. Pay close attention to the study guide. It will help you decide what information and to what depth you should study.

What format is a final exam?

Each teacher's final exam will be different, so again, pay attention when the study guide and final exam information is presented in class.

Finals include:

- In-class presentations (Typically in music, art, computer and foreign language)
- Short answers (true/false, matching, fill-in the blank, etc.)
- Essay (well developed concept supported by BOTH the content/facts and grammatical elements/structure)
- Diagrams/pictures/mapping (you may need to illustrate a concept)

Many tests have combinations of these areas. Again, your teacher will tell you on your study guide what type of final exam you will be taking.

From the VCS Library Staff: *Here's a really nifty web site that I've used and enjoyed because it's very user friendly. You'll be amazed at all the features available to make memorization fun.*
<http://www.flashcardexchange.com/index.php> (Students sign up for the free version)

How can you prepare?

1. Study the material provided. You should spend a minimum of a **WEEK**; yes a week, studying for your final exams. Spend 20-30 minutes **EACH** night reviewing (not organizing material – that is finished over and beyond the 20-30 minutes).
2. Ask any questions that you might have as soon as you can – the day the study guide is given out is the best time to ask.
3. Check your notes and make sure you have all the materials you need. If not, get copies from a **RELIABLE** student – not “just one of my friends”.
4. Review your old quizzes and tests. Many teachers take questions directly from old tests. They may be word for word but most often appear rewritten just a bit.
5. If you know you have to write something on your test, from a short paragraph to a full 3 page essay, practice this. Write an outline with specific details. Study the outline so you know how to structure the essay (introduction, body, and conclusion) and to make sure you have enough content (it’s hard to bluff your way through an essay – don’t try to “wing it”). If that means you are told you have one of three possible topics that will appear on the test, then prepare for all three.
6. Come prepared
 - a. Be in your classroom 5 minutes before the scheduled test.
 - b. Have all the supplies needed (**SHARPENED** pencils, pens, paper, Kleenex, note cards, homework that needs to be turned in, etc.)
 - i. Better yet, have extra supplies in case something happens.
7. Take care of yourself!
 - a. Eat well. Do not skip meals or eat junk food. Often when we are stressed our first instinct is to eat “fun food”. This will not help you in the long run.
 - b. Drink **water** – staying hydrated helps!
 - c. Eat breakfast the day of the exams – even if it is small. “But I don’t normally eat breakfast” – well – you don’t normally take 90 minute exams that count for a large part of your grade either. (Besides, you really should eat something healthy each morning).
 - d. Get your rest – If you start to study a week before the exam, as I expect, you will not need to stay up late and cram. You will need to be sharp and focused while testing

Now, relax and know that all your hard studying will pay off. Your teachers want you to succeed. They want to see you pass with flying colors. They want you to do your best. No tricks.

First Semester Final Exam Schedule - January 2012

Music classes may choose to give a final exam the week of January 9 -13 during the regular scheduled class time. There are no computer, art, or study skills final exams, for any grade level, during the first semester.

Please Note: School begins at 8:45 a.m. with the first test and dismisses at the end of the last test.

Drop Off: SILENT study sessions will be offered starting at 7:50 a.m. However, if you can make the arrangements, we encourage students to catch up on their sleep.

Pick-Up: Please make arrangements to pick up your child no later than 10 minutes after the completion of the last scheduled final exam. Due to various testing schedules, we simply cannot have students waiting at the MS or HS until their ES or HS siblings are dismissed. However, we will offer a silent study session until the last MS final exam is scheduled (Pick up no later than 12:45 on Monday, 11:30 Tuesday and Wednesday). Thank you.

Monday, Jan. 16th – MLK Day: No School

Tuesday, Jan. 17th

Time	Grade	Subject	Room/proctor
8:45 – 9:45	6 th	Math	
10:00 – 11:00	6 th	Cross Curricular (In-class) Project – Part 1	
8:45 – 9:45	7 th	Health/PE	
10:00 – 11:00	7 th	Language Arts	
8:45 – 10:05	8 th	Foreign Language	
10:20 – 11:20	8 th	Health/PE	
11:35 – 12:35	8 th	English	

Wednesday, Jan. 18th

Time	Grade	Subject	Room/proctor
8:45 – 9:45	6 th	Science/Health	
10:00 – 11:00	6 th	Cross Curricular (In-class) Project – Part 2	
8:45 – 9:45	7 th	Social Studies	
10:00 – 11:00	7 th	Math	
8:45 – 10:05	8 th	Math	
10:20 – 11:20	8 th	Social Studies	

Thursday, Jan. 19th

Time	Grade	Subject	Room/proctor
8:45 – 9:45	6 th	Social Studies	
10:00 – 11:00	6 th	Cross Curricular (In-class) Project – Part 3	
8:45 – 9:45	7 th	Science	
10:00 – 11:00	7 th	Religion	
8:45 – 10:05	8 th	Science	
10:05 – 11:20	8 th	Religion	

Friday, Jan. 20th - No School