Study Methods

Part 1

Chemistry

1. Do practice problems immediately after studying related concepts
2. Verbally describe the steps needed to solve each type of problem
3. Do a question that would require you to use each formula on the formula sheet
4. Use visualizations (e.g., models, drawings) to help you understand concepts

Mathematics

1. Practice, practice, practice (problems are more important than notes)
2. Don’t look up answers! Work through the problems on your own
3. Make sure you understand the theory, but don’t fixate on details
4. Know which formulas are provided and memorize them early

Biology

1. Make a mind map of the main concepts
2. Draw your own diagrams/flow charts
3. Don’t rewrite notes, instead re-organize concepts and materials to create new connections
4. Verbally explain learning objectives to yourself or a study buddy

Physics

1. Understand the theories behind the formulas
2. Prioritize course materials (notes, text, MasteringPhysics)
3. Do problems involving the same concept together
4. Re-do problems that you are struggling with

English

1. Re-read texts
2. Prepare for various essay topics
3. Practice writing essays in exam conditions

Exam Success in 15 or Less
Questions to ask...

- How do I study best?
- Where do I study best?
- What do I need to study?
- How much do I need to study for each exam?
- Which subjects am I least confident in?

When you plan, include...

- Eating
- Studying (3 - 4 study blocks per day)
- Sleeping (wake up and go to bed at the same times every day)
- Breaks (make them productive)
- Working hours/volunteering

Tools while you study...

- Toolbox #1: your notes
  - Most important, reconstruct your notes
- Toolbox #2: textbook
  - Use only as a reference
- Toolbox #3: learning outcomes
  - Checkpoint, see if you fully understand
- Toolbox #4: problem sets
  - Apply the concepts and theories
- Toolbox #5: practice exam
  - Take under exam conditions
    i.e. timed, don’t look at answers, mark after

Break time!

- Set a timer ... follow it!
- Study more enjoyable material after breaks
- Be productive (eg. washroom break, make a snack, phone your parents, clean your room)
Exam Strategies

Part 3

Exam Success in 15 or Less

1. Skim at the beginning
   - Do easier questions first
   - Star harder questions to come back to
   - Read instructions carefully, check units
   - Plan out your time accordingly
   - Check that you have all the pages
   - Identify mark distribution, prioritize questions

2. Multiple Choice
   - Read questions very carefully
   - Predict the answer before looking at the answers provided to avoid being tricked
   - Do easier questions first

3. Picture = 1000 words
   - Draw a diagram whenever you can
   - Diagrams can help supplement an answer during problem solving questions

4. Be concise
   - Do not over-think
   - Keep answer as clear as possible for the marker
   - Avoid repeating yourself
   - Take the time to write a concise thesis statement

5. Answer all questions
   - Don’t give up, something is better than nothing
   - Answer all the questions unless there is a penalty for wrong answers

6. Don’t panic
   - The purpose of the exam is to demonstrate what you know
   - Take a deep breath if you feel yourself getting anxious/nervous while writing the exam