The 3 Read Exam Strategy

Facilitator Shannon Payne

Meet your facilitator

My name is Shannon Payne .

This is year 9 of teaching Science at Achievable Dream Middle and High School. And by Science I mean currently: Chemistry, Dual Enrollment Biology, AP Environmental Science, an Physics. The list of what science I haven't taught is much shorter than what I have.

Basically, I am a professional nerd and proud of it.



Nerdiest Nerd that Ever Nerded



Today we will:

- Discuss the 3 Read Exam Strategy
- Discuss the exceptions to use of the strategy

The Heart of The Issue

The 3 Read Exam Strategy is based on a simple principle, it takes time for the brain to access long term memories.

Students try cramming for tests and then “brain dumping” on scrap paper to create a reference sheet but they can’t “cram” everything.

…Or they rush through the test before they forget.

…Only to remember an answer an hour later.

Students often fall into one of these testing Archetypes?

The Guesser:

Will pick an answer at random if the correct one isn’t obvious right away.

The Staring Contest:

Will stay on the same question like it owes them money until they figure it out.

The Popcorn Tester:

Jumps around the test at random.

The Reverse:

Will start at the end of the test and work backwards.



How does it work?

Your brain can manage multiple tasks in “passive mode” while you are actively trying to think about something else.

This is where the answers coming to you later phenomenon comes from.

But you can hack this part of your brain

How it starts?

The first time you read the test, thoroughly read each question. If you know they answer immediately select the correct answer but otherwise skip it. You should spend no more than 30 seconds on each question. Any questions that involve complex math will probably be skipped but still read them.

The Second Read

By the second time you read the test your brain will have been working in the background. This time spend up to 2 minutes on each question.

For math questions, write out your work on scratch paper with the question number. Pay attention to your time still but work through the problem.

Flag any of the questions you still don’t know.



The Third Read

By the third time you read the questions time has passed and your brain has been making connections.

Did another question reference similar information? What clues are there in the wording? What formula will help me solve this? Can I remember the day we went over this in class?

By now you should only have a few questions left and can budget the rest of your time.

Do You Check Your Work?

Absolutely! If there is time left (or the test isn’t timed) feel free. Read the question and just the response you chose, make sure it makes sense but don’t change your answer unless you recall the exact information. For questions that involve math check your scratch paper to make sure you didn’t make any common errors.

When does this not work?

Progressive tests where the next question is determined by the response to the current question.

Any test where you can’t skip questions.

Essay questions - The timing is different for those

Tests with long reading passages —

In this case you read all the questions before you read the passage and then use the first 2 steps of the 3 read strategy for each passage; delay the third step until after all passages have been completed and then reread both the unanswered questions and the passage again.

Questions, Comments, or Concerns…

- Does anyone have any questions that could be answered now?
- If you think of questions later please reach out via email:
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  - scipayne42@gmail.com

Thank You!!!!