

Checks and X's – Chapter 6 (Online)

I want you to study for your tests in a very specific way. Each chapter has a review assignment at the end. 90% or more of your test questions will come from the problems in that review assignment. To clarify, that doesn't mean that they will be identical; they will be the same kinds of problems, solved using the same kinds of methods.

Here is how you will study for all tests in this class. Count how many problems there are in the review homework assignment. For example, in the Chapter 6 Review assignment, there are 23 problems. Get out a piece of paper, and number from 1 to 23 (or whatever the number is for each review). As you complete the problems in the review, you will document your level of learning (in five measurable categories) on each question. You will indicate this with a ✓ or an ✕. We will call this the "checks and x's" method.

Before you can consider a problem "done", you must be able to solve that problem correctly, quickly, confidently, with no help, and know why the problem is solved that way. **Correctly** is obvious; you get the right answer. **Quickly** means you solved the problem in 7 minutes or less. **Confidently** means you can help another student solve that problem, including answering any "Why?" questions they might ask you. **With no help** means only using your brain, pencil and possibly a calculator... no notes, no help from any video, computer or person. And **know why the problem is solved that way** means you understand the algebraic principles that support the correct answer. Memorizing a pattern ("Whatever this number is, the answer is always one-fourth of that value, squared") does NOT count as knowing why.

On the next page of this document is a form that you will complete while studying to track your progress. Next to each problem number there is a group of five boxes. When you complete a problem, if you completed it **Correctly**, you put a ✓ in the first box. If you completed it **Quickly**, you put a ✓ in the second box. **Confidently** is measured using the third box, **No Help** uses the fourth and **Know Why** uses the fifth. Any time you are not able to meet a condition, you put an ✕ in that box instead.

After a problem is done, if all five boxes have a ✓, move on to the next problem. If not, reattempt that problem until all five boxes have a ✓. Use the other sets of five boxes to track your progress. Complete all problems in the review using this method. **This will take you hours to do**, but if it means that you know how to solve all the problems, then you'll do very well on the test. The key is to start early; **don't wait until the day or night before a test to start studying**. In fact, you can study the test review problems as you learn each section of the textbook leading up to your test.

Know Why

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