How to Study For Tests in This Class

I want you to study for your tests in a very specific way. Each chapter has a review assignment at the end which is due on the day of your test. 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 kinds of methods.

Here is how you will study for all tests in this class. First, come to campus and get in the same room as a math expert. Second, count how many problems there are in the review homework assignment. For example, in the Chapter 2 Review assignment, there are 25 problems. Get out a piece of paper, and number from 1 to 25 (or whatever the number is for each review). As you complete the problems in the review, you will document your level of learning on each question. You will indicate this with a ✓ or an ✗. In class, I will call this the "checks and x's" method.

To place a ✓ next to a problem number, you must solve that problem correctly, quickly, confidently, with no help, and know why the problem is solved that way. If you cannot meet all five of those criteria, then you must place an ✗ next to that problem number. Let's get specific. **Quickly** means you solved the problem in 7 minutes or less. **Confidently** means you are capable of helping 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 half of that value") does NOT count as knowing why.

Once you've completed all problems in the review, you will have a ✓ or an ✗ next to each problem number. Now go back and reattempt the ✗ problems. This is your chance to put a ✓ after each ✗. Once you've completed this "second pass" at the problems, go back again and reattempt the problems that still have no ✓. Repeat this until every problem has a ✓. **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 problems as you learn each section of the textbook leading up to your test.

To get you started, print this form and use it to study for your first test, the Chapter 2 Test.

1	6	11	16	21
2	7	12	17	22
3	8	13	18	23
4	9	14	19	24
5	10	15	20	25