BEING AN EFFECTIVE STUDENT IN TERTIARY EDUCATION

Naveen Khare
Professor in Chemistry
UNIVERSITY OF LUCKNOW

1

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TEACHER AND A PROFESSOR

A Professor of Philosophy at the University of Houston has explained the difference between high school teachers and university professors.

He said, "I am your professor, not your teacher." He stressed that, "Teachers are evaluated on the basis of learning outcomes, generally as measured by standardized tests. If you don't learn, then your teacher is blamed."

He added, "It is not part of my job to make you learn. At university, learning is your job—and yours alone. My job is to lead you to the fountain of knowledge. Whether you drink deeply or only gargle is entirely up to you."

What are learning skills?

- "Learning how to learn" and improving your effectiveness and efficiency at studying and completing assignments.
- Areas of focus include:
  - Organizing your time and workload to better accomplish your academic goals
  - Improving reading and note-taking skills
  - Developing better study strategies to help you study "smarter" for test/exams
  - Increasing your high-level, critical thinking skills

3

Learning Method

- Success depends on various factors like motivation, self-discipline, psychological wellness, and physical health
- Focus on understanding by concept construction rather than memorizing definitions

4

Difference Between Understanding and 'Being a Tape Recorder'

- Students behave as if they are like tape recorders and can somehow absorb knowledge simply by being able to hear or see it and record it
- However, you should NOT be a tape recorder
  - Tape recorders cannot do anything to the recorded information except to retain it and play it back
  - BUT one should 'process' the information as you desire. If you behave as a recorder, new information will not be integrated with your prior knowledge and understanding; the information remains isolated, cannot be used effectively in new tasks and does not transfer readily to new situations.

9

- "Reading University Level Academic Materials" you may encounter a number of principles and strategies related to reading effectively at university.
- You have learned about the importance of reading actively through setting reading goals, developing a purpose for reading, using the Survey, Question, Read, Recite, Review (SQ3R) strategy,
- Thinking critically and analytically about the notes and summaries you make from your various readings and about reviewing and reciting in preparation for exams.

12

Recommendations

- Use SQ3R religiously and judiciously.
- If you choose not to subscribe to any particular strategy, use the principles that underlie them: previewing for an overview, questioning, summarizing, recording ideas in key word form, reciting ideas, reflecting about what was read, reviewing learning regularly

16

Skimming and Scanning

- Skimming and scanning processes have specialized applications for reading.
  - Skimming: helpful for establishing general awareness about the contents of a specific reading. Skimming the structural elements of a reading (headings, sub-headings, topic sentences etc.) is a common way to preview a reading.
  - Scanning: used to identify the organization of a reading and then to locate specific information quickly and accurately. Finding a number in a phone book is an example of scanning.

17

Answering Questions

Apply questions to what you read

- When we ask only the most basic questions, we think only the most basic thoughts.
- When we question at deeper levels, we think more deeply.
- Questioning at various levels moves you to thinking at those various levels.
- Reading is a tool of thinking.

19

Problem Solving in Examination

Problem-solving is the most important core skill in chemistry, it is what chemistry is all about. Here are the five-step general problem-solving process:

- Step 1: Identify What is Given? Separate the problem into the facts, conditions and assumptions. List them symbolically as familiar chemical terms and formulas.
- Step 2: Clarify What is Being Asked? Understand what is asked and if unclear, try to rephrase the question in terms that you know.

20

Problem Solving in Examination

- Step 3: Select a Strategy. Choose an appropriate method to solve the problem. These strategies include trial-and-error search, deduction, working backward and the knowledge-based method. The goal is to establish a path to get to what is being asked from what is given.
- Step 4: Solve-Apply the skills and mathematical expressions needed to carry out the strategy chosen.
- Step 5: Review and Examine the reasonableness of the solution, and correctness of the units, significant figures and order of magnitude. Fix the possible errors and re-evaluate the approach.

21

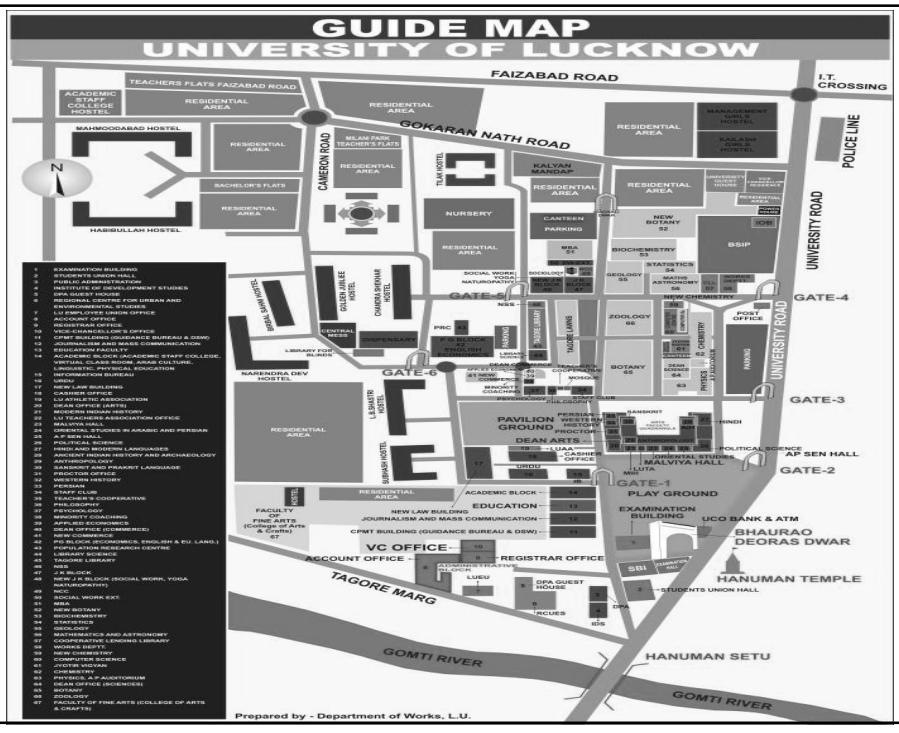
How to Overcome the Fear of Examination

- Prepare better
- Avoid last minute work.
- Study consistently throughout the term.
- Regularly clear doubts about grey areas to ensure understanding of fundamental concepts.
- Start reading the references early.
- Empower yourself to do something to make the situation less fearful.
- Attempt past year papers and understand as many cases as possible.
- Use Peer learning-which optimises student learning outcomes and provides a more holistic, value-added and quality-enhancing education.
- Lastly, relax and not worry about what others think. Everyone, after all, feels insecure in some way or another.

22


Biochemistry
JK Block
Geology
Mathematics
PG Block
Tagore
Zoology
Chemistry
New Commerce
Botany
Old Commerce
Physics
Arts Quadrangle
Cashier's Office
Image © 2007 DigitalGlobe
© 2007 Europa Technologies
Google
Pointer 26°51'52.52" N 80°56'16.04" E elev 387 ft Streaming 100%
Eye alt 2718 ft

23


GUIDE MAP
UNIVERSITY OF LUCKNOW
FAIZABAD ROAD
I.T. CROSSING
GOKARAN NATH ROAD
POLICE LINE
UNIVERSITY ROAD
GATE-1
GATE-2
GATE-3
GATE-4
GATE-6
PLAY GROUND
PAVILION GROUND
DEAN ARTS
VC OFFICE
REGISTRAR OFFICE
ACCOUNT OFFICE
EDUCATION
EXAMINATION BUILDING
UCO BANK & ATM
BHAURAO DEORAS DWAR
HANUMAN TEMPLE
HANUMAN SETU
TAGORE MARG
GOMTI RIVER
Prepared by - Department of Works, L.U.