7 Things You Need to Master to Ace Your Entrance Tests

Learn Tried and Tested Techniques To Pass Your Examinations

rm review masters

Introduction

You have what it takes to pass ANY entrance test!

You don't believe me?

I'll tell you in a while how you can do so.

The purpose of this eBook is to **teach you the essential skills** that you need to **pass your entrance tests**.

I'll also give some pointers on how you could acquire these skills.

Before anything else, I'll let you ponder on this thought…

In school, your teachers want the best for you. They would spend their time preparing your lessons, constructing your tests and checking your papers. It's a tough life for them because they want you to constantly improve and gain knowledge (*I'm speaking from experience. I hope you feel me.* XD).

They want you to learn.

But here's the real deal:

We are NOT taught in school how to beat an exam!

That could have been great, right? Your teachers giving you techniques how to beat their exams.

Asa ka pa! Haha!

Well, you should not be surprised at all.

Of course, your teachers will focus on what you should learn in school. Their job is to make sure that you learn the subject (well, at least 60% of it anyway).

The exam is a way for them to measure what you know. *Why will they teach you techniques to beat their measuring tool, right?*

This is NOT good for you when taking entrance tests.

In an entrance test, such as the UPCAT, you need every technique and strategy that you can use to overcome the exam (O*f course I am talking about ethical tactics. White hat only guys!*).

You need to know how to navigate through each question; answering each one with efficiency and accuracy.

There is a need for test-taking skills

In school, we are given the content of the subject. We are taught definitions, formula, rules, theories, analysis and a lot of other things that sometimes we wonder: will I use this in real life.

Don't get me wrong. I am not against about teaching content. Knowledge is the heart of education. And I am a teacher, too.

However, in the entrance test, CONTENT IS NOT ENOUGH!

Knowledge and subject content does not matter if you can't recall it during the test. It does not matter if you don't have time. It does not matter if you failed to follow instructions.

It does not matter if you can't write on the answer sheet because your freakin' pencil broke!

You need **proven and time-tested test-taking skills** aside from knowledge.

I may be sounding like a sly fox telling you this but I am just speaking the truth.

Content and test-taking skills. That's how you win the entrance test war!

I and the Review Masters team have seen students fail the test because they don't have the essentials skills to overcome an entrance exam.

Honor students failing the test and average ones making the cut.

Hopefully, this eBook will give some light on the matter. We are happy to share this to students like you and see you succeed on your entrance test.

The 7 Things That You Need To Master To Ace Your Entrance Tests

SKILL #1

Multiple Choice Test-Taking Skills

With thousands of students who will take the UPCAT, only the multiple choice type of exam is feasible for UP.

Even a simple, 5 sentence essay would be impossible to check.

With this come opportunities for students to take advantage of.

In multiple choice type questions, always remember **that the correct answer is among the choices**.

This concept works well with problem solving as you can use the choices that fit the question rather than spending time to systematically solve the question.

Wording analysis and item elimination are also techniques to answer questions you don't know how to answer.

Some people would argue that using these techniques to find the correct answer defeats the purpose of testing the knowledge of a student. But then again UP is looking for the best and brightest students in the country; and effectively breaking down an exam is a clear sign of intelligence.

What can you do?

- Eliminate the wrong choices.
- Practice taking multiple choice exams. (the Review Masters CET Masterclass will give you the practice you need for the CETs).
- Do it backwards. Use the choices to find the answer.
- Know the different techniques to answer multiple choice exams (in the 37 Proven Tips to Pass UPCAT the Sure Way! Workshop, we dive into the details of these techniques).

SKILL #2

Effective Use of Time

Only 2 types of examinees *don't run out of time in the UPCAT*.

1st is the geniuses who by all means should qualify for UP.

They usually become the Oblation Awardees and Intarmed Candidates.

They take the exam, finish before the time is up, and simply have nothing else to do but wait for the time to finish so they can answer the next subtest.

The other type is students who have simply given up on the UPCAT.

If you are one of the former, then good for you, I just hope you're not one of the latter.

For the rest of you, **speed** *and* **time management** *is the key*.

Never spend too much time in a single question and skip the more difficult ones.

This way, you'll be able to answer more questions in the time given.

If you finish early, then review until you run up the time.

What can you do?

- Bring a watch.
- Be aware of the time.
- Pace yourself accordingly throughout the test (We have a good **time management system** for exams that we will share with you in the 37 Proven Tips to Pass UPCAT the Sure Way! Workshop).

SKILL #3

Knowledge on Math, Science, Language Proficiency, Reading Comprehension

Tricks and tips for passing an exam are there for you to help you recall information that you already have.

However, even if you master the art of test taking, I doubt that you'll be able to pass an Engineering Board Exam right now because you're not yet equipped with the knowledge for taking the board exam.

The good news is that you are equipped with the knowledge that you learned throughout high school (well, I hope so).

What you need to do is to refresh this knowledge by putting in review time. The tips and tricks will help you recall that knowledge during the exam.

What can you do?

- Study! (We can't stress this enough. The Review Masters CET Masterclass, will give you the review you need for the test.)

- Brush up on your high school stuff; mainly Math, Science, English and Filipino (*Yes, you heard it right. The UPCAT has Filipino. More on this later*).

- Set aside some time to review. It would be best if you include the review in your schedule.

SKILL #4

Mental Toughness

Some students seem naturally confident in taking an exam while others seem to easily be rattled when they encounter a difficult question.

Mental toughness is important in an exam because it can affect your ability to recall information.

The good news is that **mental toughness can be trained**.

Preparation is your first defense.

When you enter an exam fully prepared and confident, you'll feel that the UPCAT will be a breeze.

When you encounter a difficult question, simply skip that question and go back to it later.

Losing composure on a difficult question is not worth missing out on the easier questions.

And as vice versa, gaining composure when you answer easy questions would help build the confidence you will need when you tackle the more difficult items.

What can you do?

- Practice, practice, practice. The Review Masters CET Masterclass can help you with this.

- Make yourself used to taking exams, as if it was second nature to you already.

- Do not lose composure. Always tell yourself that you can do it. **The EASIEST thing to do in an exam is to GIVE UP!**

SKILL #5

Physical and Mental Endurance

Exams are tiring; the UPCAT even more so.

Very few students have the mental endurance to focus for more than an hour.

The UPCAT is 3 hours of concentrated effort. 5 hours including the agony of waiting for the exam to begin.

I think the mental endurance needed for taking the UPCAT is a test in itself as UP students need phenomenal mental endurance to survive in UP.

Surprisingly, most people don't associate mental endurance with physical endurance.

Building up physical endurance also builds up your mental endurance.

And in the same manner that physical endurance is built through consistent practice, mental endurance can also be developed in as short as a week.

Simply, focus in class for an entire week.

The mental endurance developed will be more than enough to help you get through the UPCAT.

As with most things, this is easier said than done, but when done properly, this will greatly help your concentration during the UPCAT or any major exam.

What can you do?

- Focus in class for an entire week.

- Be physically fit to take the test. There are exercises in the 37 Proven Tips Workshop that will help you achieve this.

- Make sure you can survive the long haul… entrance exams usually lasts from 3 to 5 hours. You can learn more about staying alert all throughout the test in the workshop.

SKILL #6

Management of External Factors

Can you do anything about external factors?

Honestly, you cannot really do anything with external factors while taking the UPCAT.

Factors such as temperature, noise, or a smelly seatmate are things you have to accept might happen.

Though uncontrollable, there are a few things that you can do to manage these external factors.

Simple things like visiting the exam room prior to the UPCAT would prepare you for the possible temperature or noise you may encounter during your UPCAT.

Allergens could be held at bay; bad smells during the UPCAT, a simple handkerchief would solve it.

The simplest actions could manage external factors from affecting your exam rather than being rattled by it.

We have a saying during exams: "You're only distracted when you can't answer the exam; not the other way around.

What can you do?

- Bring the stuff you need: hankie, tissue, jacket, medicine (in case you have allergies or sickness) and others.

- Visit the exam venue if possible.

SKILL #7

Filipino

Yes, we dedicated a section in this ebook specifically for Filipino.

Weird? Probably.

We did this because it is usually a taken-for-granted skill by students.

Ika nga nila, Filipino lang naman.

But this is a special skill that is very important mainly for the UPCAT.

Being the University of the Philippines, you should expect that the UPCAT has Filipino questions.

Some students cry foul with the inclusion of Filipino questions.

Instead of wasting your effort complaining, polish up on your Filipino instead.

The Filipino questions are easy enough that all you need to do is read well written Filipino literature and refresh your grammar.

As with all the tips here, the underlying tip is PRACTICE.

What can you do?

- Practice your Filipino skills: oral and written.
- Read Filipino publications. You may start with short stories and other literary works.
- Challenge yourself: **Avoid Taglish**. Speak straight Filipino. You'll be surprised.

Final Note

You only take the UPCAT and other entrance examinations once in your life.

Why leave your success to chance?

Though already short, you still have time. We have given you information and it's now up to you to act on it.

You must not waste the opportunity given to you. **You must act NOW!**

Go and be the master of your destiny.

To your success,

Sir Ian

P. S. I would like to check out the different review programs of Review Masters, especially the Masterclass and the 37 Proven Tips to Pass UPCAT the Sure Way! Workshop. I believe that you will learn a lot about test-taking in these programs. Click on the link to know more about them. See you there!