

How scratch paper help you during an exam

Using a scratch (blank) sheet of paper can help with focus during an exam. If your instructor allows scratch paper during exams, consider the following ideas:

Brain dump

- Take the first couple minutes of your exam to write down everything you can remember about the topic. Examples might include key dates, timelines, formulas, etc.

Formula sheet

- If your exam requires formulas for calculations, jot down key equations, notes on when to use them or steps to follow

Calculations

- While showing all your work on the actual exam is important, scratch paper can be useful to work out the details of a particularly challenging calculation before entering your response on the exam.

Organize your thoughts

- Create a quick outline for an essay response.

Cover up answers

- Use the scratch sheet to cover answer choices for multiple-choice questions. Carefully read the question, then determine your answer before looking at the listed options. By covering the answer options, you can determine the answer from your knowledge without the influence of the offered answers.

Sketch or diagram

- Sometimes a visual picture helps.

List questions to review

- Note questions that you want to review before submitting your paper.