Essay Questions on Tests

Before the Test

1. If you have had previous tests already in the course look them over and try to make a guess on what types of essay questions will be used on the upcoming test.

2. Memorize details that will help the professor know that you are aware of what you're talking about. Memorize facts, events, statistics, names, etc; anything that will help you make your message clear on an essay question.

3. Oftentimes the textbook will have sample essay questions. Practice writing these out so you will get better at formulating essay responses.

During the Test

1. Read the question carefully! Write down all points you want to make on the question so you'll be able to go to them later, this will serve as a way to keep you on track if you're drawing blanks.

2. Think of what your goal is; what do you want the reader to come away with or learn after they read your response?

3. Write an outline that summarizes your main points, consult your written down material from the first step to help you setup the outline.

4. Write the essay clearly and grammatically correct.

5. Review what you have written. Correct any grammatical errors and also double check to see if you've answered all parts that were asked in the question.

Helpful Tips

- Don't write everything you know about the subject in one answer, this will lead to your response being difficult to read and you might emphasize material that wasn't very important for the particular question.

- Don't have your response drag on or be excessively long. Professors sometimes see this and assume that you're just trying to draw attention away from a weak response or you not knowing the material in detail.

- Space your time out, balance the time you have to take the test between all of the essay questions. If you spend a lot of time on the first one or two essay questions it might leave you without any time to complete the final one.