



Deeper Life Campus Fellowship, Canada

2016 Koinonia Study-045

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayer s (Act 2:42)"

STARTING EARLY

Daniel 1:18-20, Proverbs 22: 29

Examination is usually the logical culmination of any academic programme. It is necessary to assess the level of proficiency in a course of study, for academic or professional progress and ultimate award of relevant certificates/degrees. Hence, excellent performance in examination would definitely require adequate preparation. Generally, many candidates do not perform up to their God-given potentials in examinations due to poor preparation. As it is said, **"proper preparation prevents poor performance"**. Poor preparation is usually due to poor planning and last minute rush to cram the whole of a semester's work in just a few days prior to the examination.

For excellent performance in examinations, our preparation must begin early and long before the day of examination. In order to adequately prepare for any examination, it is important to start very early at the beginning of each semester or well ahead of the date for the examination. As stated in our leading text, Daniel and his colleagues underwent a 3-year course of study at the end of which they stood before the king for an examination. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah were outstanding in their performances in the examination, **"And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm"**(Daniel 1:20). This is the expectation of God for campus Christian students.

Obviously, Daniel and his colleagues were well prepared for this examination. From the earliest part of the course, Daniel had purposed in his heart to stand out both spiritually and intellectually (Daniel 1:8). This teaches us that godly purpose is a strong determinant of our ultimate success in life. Starting early will certainly result in better preparation. The following practical steps could help you to adequately prepare for your next and subsequent examinations, if diligently followed. (1) Resume early as soon as the session or semester begins (2) Complete all your registrations formalities within the stipulated time. Many students are in the habit of resuming several weeks after the session or semester has started. (3) Familiarize yourself with the academic calendar, your departmental time table and all the course outlines for the semester and develop your personal study plan; (4) visit the library very early to obtain some of the books and materials needed for your courses; (5) obtain past question papers necessary for your different courses; (6) endeavor to read every topic before the lecture indicated on the course outline, make out some notes and prepare to ask questions regarding the areas you anticipate challenges. This will enable you follow the lectures; (7) Be punctual always for you lectures and sit at the front as much as possible; (8) Read the notes of every lecture within 24 hours; (9) Do your assignments promptly; (10) Do a mock exam for yourself and systematically answer as many questions as possible in each of your courses not later than 2 weeks before your examination dates. This should be written down and timed as it will be done in the real examination situations. This is called simulation and it will prime your mind ready for the actual examination. During the revision week, you can go over these model answers and refine them.

Adequate preparation for examination requires strong purpose, focus, determination, diligence, discipline and commitment and much prayer for enabling grace. While it remains true that you can do all things through Christ, (Philippians 4:13), it is essential to adopt effective study and memory development strategies. Such effective studying would entail the **SQ3R method**. SQ3R stands for Survey, Question, Read, Recall (Recite, Record); Review.

SURVEY - this is a general perusal of a document to see whether or not it is worth spending time on.

QUESTION - ask yourself questions as you go on the main points being made as you study?

READ - here you read properly to obtain answers to specific questions. Do active and conscious searching for answers. Reading forms the basis for understanding as it is written; **“Give attendance to reading; whose readeth let him understand”** (1 Timothy 4: 13; Matthew 24: 15).

RECALL - this is the process of retaining what you have learned in your memory. It may require reciting and recording on paper what you have learned.

REVIEW - revision is going over again to maintain continuity and reinforce your learning.

Full memory development is very important because the rate at which we retain what is learnt varies. Generally, only 10% of what we hear is remembered; 50% of what we hear could be remembered; and 90% of what we hear, see, and do could be well remembered. However, research has further shown that memory improvement could be enhanced by **ASSOCIATION** (the pooling together of concepts in your course with simple and easy-to-remember clues); **ORGANISATION OF STUDY** (the sequential or hierarchical arrangement of your course in order of importance or difficulty or presentation in the class room); **MNEMONICS** - of acronyms or abbreviations to help the memory, and **OVER-LEARNING** (the repetition of a learned task many times until it sticks in the memory).

DISCUSSION

1. From this study, do you think it is beneficial to start early in our preparation for examinations?

2. Identify from the following scriptural passages, principles that can help us to adequately prepare for our examinations.

Proverbs 22: 29 _____

a. Proverbs 24: 27 _____

b. Marks 1: 35 _____

c. Ecclesiastes 11: 6 _____

d. Romans 12: 11 _____

e. 1Corinthians 9: 25-27 _____

3. Mention some causes of poor preparation for examinations and their possible remedies.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

4. Explain the SQ3R method

5. From what you have learnt from this study, outline some simple steps for memory improvement

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

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