HOW TO DO WELL ON EXAMS IN CHEM 12

BEFORE THE EXAM:

1. Master the survival skills (see the list on the web, in the Handout Corner).

2. Know how to do all homework problems (end of chapter and supplementary).

3. Practice on old exams from the class packet (check the Comments in the Handout Corner on our website on which questions apply this year, because of syllabus changes).

4. When you think you are ready, do the set of problems from the most recent set of exams that are applicable (available on the web). Do them as if this was a "real" exam.
   - time yourself
   - do not look into the book or your notes
   - count your score: 1 point per question; 1/2 a point for any question that you were not sure; 0 points for questions that you had to guess; subtract 2 points from your raw score and divide by the number of questions. That is your expected score on the exam: Are you satisfied?

5. Fix the discovered deficiencies: attend a review session, go the TA office hours, use the resource room, study with somebody ... When analyzing your results you must answer for yourself the following questions: (a) what is the correct answer and why? (b) how to get to the correct answer? (c) why weren't you able to do it correctly on your own?

6. Take another "practice exam" (do not use your notes or books). Analyze your results as you have done before (point 5 above), and if needed (trust us, you do need it!) take the third practice exam and repeat your analysis again.

DURING THE EXAM:

1. Understand what the question is about (identify concepts involved)

2. There are three types of questions to be expected:
   - questions about definitions, nomenclature rules, or memorized basic information (no calculations required)
   - questions about concepts and their applications (no calculations, or very simple calculations required)
   - questions about numerical application (calculations required)

3. Plan a strategy

4. Do calculations, only if necessary. Estimate first, if possible. Always check if the answer makes sense. Pay attentions to units and magnitudes (is the decimal point in the right place).

5. Carefully copy your answers to the scantron.

6. If you have time left, recheck your answers (be careful about changing your answers).