Knowing what will be on the test does not require MAGIC

Before a test, some instructors hand out lists of questions to be used as study guides. Even in they don’t, the following strategies can help you predict most of the test questions.

Do a Dry Run

One of the most effective ways to prepare for a test is to practice the tasks you’ll actually do on the test. Say that the test will include mainly true/false or short answer questions. Brainstorm a list of such questions and practice taking the test. Do the same with other kinds of questions such as essay questions.

Add questions from the end-of-the-chapter exercises and from a student study guide if your text comes with these study aids. Some textbook publishers have practice questions on the websites. Go to the publisher’s site, type in the name of your text and examine the site for a study guide. Brainstorm with a study partner and make up a collective list of questions and compare your answers with those of your study partner.

Also, predict the level of questions. Some are likely to call for rote memory; others might require application or analysis-critical thinking.

Ask the Instructor What to Expect

One great source of information about the test is the person who created it – your instructor. Ask what to expect. What topics will be emphasized? What kinds of questions will it contain? How can you best use your review time? Instructors want you to do well. More than likely an instructor will give you helpful information about the test.

Taken from Becoming a Master Student, Dave Ellis

For more information see:
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