

DEVS 100 – Exam Study Strategies

EXAM FORMAT

- Matching questions
- Match course terms with their most appropriate descriptions
- Short answer
 - Identify and explain the significance for four out of six development-related terms
 - Approximately 200-300 words in length each
- Long answer/essay
 - Answer an essay question based on one of the given prompts

HOW TO STUDY

- First, refer to the course outcomes and learning objectives on the syllabus. Can you answer the big questions written down on the syllabus? E.g. you may think about large debates and competing perspectives in development theory
- Group study
 - For self-testing and review
 - To complete missing items and ideas in your study materials
- Tables for term identification: they'll help you organize important information and discard excess detail
- Cornell note-taking method:
 - Find examples online
 - It's easy to turn your current notes into Cornell notes, focusing on summary and cue words to order information.
 - Allows you to practice condensing information into useful summaries and to review information quickly
- Mind maps
 - Useful for understanding the connections between different terms and concepts, mastering the course as a whole vs. snippets of information from random sources.

SAMPLE TABLE:

- Compare like with like, e.g. types of government
- Summarize large chunks of information and hundreds of pages in a simple visual medium

Definition	Example	Significance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free market economy • State intervention in monopolies, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chile and A. Pinochet • Links to major course topics/goals • Great Britain and Thatcher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links to other theories • Links to major course topics/goals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federalist vs. Bourgeoisie • Class struggle • Development from the "ground up" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First World War • Links to major course topics/goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links to other theories • Links to major course topics/goals

CORNELL NOTES:

- Add cue words and summaries to pages of dense writing to make them easier to follow

Ribosomes	-proteins that use mRNA as a template to synthesize proteins needed in the cell
Vesicles	-a membrane bubble that encloses materials and transports them into or out of a cell by fusing with the cell's membrane
Lysosomes	-organelles that contain enzymes which can break down cellular components and waste -necessary to maintain cellular health
Summary	Many components of the cell must work together to carry out cellular functions. Lack of any one component can severely jeopardize a cell's survival.

FINDING & USING PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- ExamBank features past exams for the course
 - Great for self-testing for term identification
- Use past essay questions to practice writing in your own time. If you do not want to write a whole essay, try creating outlines instead
- Your last tutorial for the course will be a time to review the previous year's exam as a class (can also be found on ExamBank)

STUDY AND EXAM PREP RESOURCES

- Practice questions from ExamBank
- Reading and comprehension practice in your textbook
- Grammar exercises online
- Your TAs (questions and answers during your tutorial sessions)
- ExamBank
- Study groups



COMMON MISTAKES

- For term identification, focus on the big picture and how the term relates to course material as a whole rather than searching for small examples in textbook to explain the term
- Use the textbook to supplement your studying rather than guiding it. Use lecture notes as the main guide
- For the essay question, you must focus on the topic or theme given, but branch out to draw on the wide range of material you've seen in the course as you reach your conclusion

TIPS FOR NEXT YEAR AND GOING FORWARD

- Use the theories and terms you used this semester to apply your knowledge effectively for future Global Development courses
- Make use of SASS resources on essay writing to effectively prepare you for more complex written assignments next year
- Do not be afraid to reach out for extra help from professors, TAs and senior students running the DEVS DSC

OTHER RESOURCES

- DEVS DSC runs study sessions and how-to-study workshops
- ASUS tutoring is available for a small fee
- TAs and professors – you can still ask them questions!
- One-on-one learning strategies and writing help at Student Academic Success Services (sass.queensu.ca)

FINAL TAKEAWAYS

- Focus on the terms related to development and think about how they relate to the big picture and to the course as a whole
- Consider their importance to the study of development and any valuable examples to illustrate your point. Use these terms to craft your answers for the short and long-answer portions of the exam
- Carefully read the question and respond to its key words (compare, contrast, explain, etc.); don't just write everything you know about a particular topic