

The Spotlight

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Did You Forget About Midterms?

By Sam Gaba

Despite the luck we pulled these past three years, midterms are coming. Of course, midterms are nothing compared to finals, where a year's worth of knowledge is expected to be regurgitated in an essay or DBQ. Although finals were never really a thing for our senior class...

The Class of '22's freshman year four-core class finals were excused if we managed to pass the state tests in April. '22's sophomore year finals were cancelled by COVID-19, which wiped out nearly all academic expectations separate from participation and completion points. I suppose you could say '22's first true "finals" experience was last year, but when AP tests are done, finals seem like nothing.

But we're talking about midterms. Remember those? Mid-year tests that are supposed to act as a prerequisite for AP tests, state tests, and finals? Yeah, those are about to happen. With the dates landing on January 11th, 12th, and 13th, midterms are literally a week away. Don't worry, I'm going to help you get in those last cram sessions like it's nothing. For those of you who have never taken a midterm or final, the schedule looks like this:

EXAM DAY ONE January 11th, 2022	EXAM DAY TWO January 12th, 2022	EXAM DAY THREE January 13th, 2022
1st Period Exams 8:10 - 9:40 am	2nd Period Exams 8:10 - 9:40 am	3rd Period Exams 8:10 - 9:40 am
BREAK 9:40 - 9:45 am	BREAK 9:40 - 9:45 am	BREAK 9:40 - 9:45 am
4th Period Exams 9:49 - 11:19 am	5th Period Exams 9:49 - 11:19 am	6th Period Exams 9:49 - 11:19 am
BREAK 11:19 - 11:24 am	BREAK 11:19 - 11:24 am	BREAK 11:19 - 11:24 am
7th Period Exams 11:28 - 12:58 pm	8th Period Exams 11:28 - 12:58 pm	POLARIS 6th Period Exams 11:28 - 12:58 pm

*not pictured are LUNCH and MAKE-UP EXAM PERIODS

Following this paragraph, subject-specific studying tips and tricks will be listed. Falling behind in History of the 60s and 70s, European History, or Government? Just choose the umbrella term (in this case, "History") and follow its advice.

LANGUAGE ARTS

For every language arts class I've taken, midterms have typically been structured the same. There's a multiple choice section and some form of written response, whether it be an essay or a paragraph. The MCQ (Multiple Choice Question) section is relatively straightforward. These questions are either passage-or term-based. For passage-based questions, my best recommendation is to read the passage and write a quick summary of it off to the side so you can reference it when answering questions. Term-based questions are easier. To the point and short, these questions will simply ask you to recognize and identify terms your teacher has thrown around in class (for example, theme or tone). Go back through those "stupid" worksheets and make flashcards or a Quizlet for each term. You've got this.

Remember your summer reading books? No? That's okay. Start by making a list of each of the books your teacher has assigned you to read. Jot down everything you remember from the books underneath each title. By everything, I simply mean main ideas, themes, and important literary devices that you can write about in an essay.

Essay questions are typically easiest to write when you have at least one interesting stance on each book. Your opinions will carry you through. If needed, structure your essay like this: an introduction paragraph that ends with a thesis statement, two body paragraphs with one topic sentence each, and a conclusion that restates your thesis and has one sentence summaries of each body paragraph. It doesn't seem so hard now, does it?

HISTORY

I bet you regret not taking notes in class until now. But don't worry, history midterms are the exact same as "braindumps". As long as you know the knowledge, that is. History midterms (again, only in my experience) are structured similarly to Language Arts midterms. However, these midterms have more range, and if you ask your teacher for the structure of the test, they will most likely tell you. MCQ is bound to make an appearance, but answering these questions is easier. Review your notes. If you have none, consider cracking open the textbook. Summarize each of the chapters covered this semester and jot down the key points and vocabulary terms. This should carry you through the MCQ section.

Depending on the class, you may be asked to write an essay, answer short-response questions, or even a DBQ (Document-Based Question). Teachers will explain how these work, and you've probably tested with this structure before. Identify the main movements in the time period covered this semester. Stick to PERSIA (Political, Economic, Religious, Social, Intellectual, and Art) when finding main ideas. As long as you know the overall cause and effect of each movement, you'll (most-likely) be fine.

MATH

Math is simple. In all of the math classes I've taken, I've been exposed to only two structures of midterms. A test that consists entirely of MCQs, or a test that functions like any other general math test, only with problems that are derived from an entire semester's worth of topics. So, how do I get started?

Find the chapters you've studied this semester, and make a small study guide for each of them. Study guides should include definitions, rules (whether this be exponential or logarithmic), proofs (geometry kids, I'm talking to YOU), mnemonics (SohCahToa), or just practice problems that were difficult when you covered the chapter. Study guides are your best

friend for math midterms, and let me tell you why: some teachers allow you to create cheat sheets. Study guides will help you identify the main ideas of each chapter, which will then help you eliminate unnecessary information from the long list of "must-haves" to include on your cheat sheet.

If you find math to simply be too difficult to even think about studying, ask yourself why it's difficult. Do you not understand one topic, and that's stopping you from understanding the rest? Ask your teacher for help. At OF, effort does not go unnoticed. If a teacher sees you making an effort to comprehend the material, they can sympathize with you and figure out a way to help you understand. Effort is key.

SCIENCE

Oh boy, science. These midterms are (structure-wise) off the grid. They vary depending on which subject you are taking. First, you must ask yourself what kind of science you are learning. Is this a math-based course like physics? Is this a concept-based science, like biology? Or is it a combination of both, like chemistry? After you answer these questions, studying becomes a lot easier. For math-based courses, you can follow the math tips from the section above. Create a study guide with equations (making sure to include what the equation or law is supposed to find) and scenarios in which certain laws can be applied. Look over your lab work; there is bound to be a lab-based question on the midterm.

For conceptual science classes like biology, I recommend categorizing each of the chapters you've learned about into three areas: (1) Stuff I Know, (2) Stuff I Don't Know, and (3) Stuff I Say I Know But Actually Don't. Don't be fooled by the first category, barely anything should be in it when you first begin studying. "Knowing" is not the same as understanding. If you can identify it in a scenario, but do not know how it APPLIES, then put it into "Stuff I Don't Know." Pretending you know the information to avoid studying it will cost you on this exam.

For the classes that fall in between conceptual and mathematical, I recommend a middle path. Create a study guide for each chapter (if there are no specific chapters, like in a textbook, divide the coursework according to tests). These study guides should consist of mathematical equations AND their applications. By applications, I mean how math is used to prove certain laws. This usually means to make sure you know not only what the math is but also how you can use it based on the concepts you learned in class or in a textbook.

It's Not Too Late To Join A Club

By Audrey Helms

As students are looking for new clubs and activities to join, I decided to interview four different clubs including Glamour Gals, Environmental Club, OFHS film society, and Helping Hands in order to learn a little more about what they do!

Q1: What is the club? (General Information)

Q2: What are some fun activities and/or fundraisers the group has done?

Q3: Is the club currently open for new members, and if so, how can new members join?

Glamour Gals

Q1: "Glamour Gals is a new club at OFHS this year. We hope to create meaningful experiences and address elder isolation by providing beauty makeovers to elders in our community. This club helps to boost confidence in both our elders and club members."

Q2: "We have had 2 makeover events this year. On December 13th we had a holiday event. At this event we made gingerbread houses with the ladies, as well as did some makeovers. Golden Expressions also performed at this event!"

Q3: "Anyone is welcome to join at any time! New members can feel free to email me (Maddy) or our advisor Mrs. Madak (22medlenmad@ofcs.net & pmadak@ofcs.net). Also, new members can join our Google Classroom to stay updated on meetings, events, etc. The Google Classroom code is 7z44gsq." If you have any questions, you can contact Maddy Medlen at 22medlenmad@ofcs.net.
Advisor(s): Mrs. Madak pmadak@ofcs.net.

Environmental Club

Q1: "In Environmental Club we raise awareness about serious environmental issues and learn about ways to reduce our individual impact on Earth."

Q2: "This year we have done a couple of clean-ups around the high school and plan to do more around Olmsted Falls in the parks system. We also play many Kahoots to help educate students on topics such as food waste and recycling!"

Q3: "Anyone is welcome to join anytime by joining the Google Classroom (orkrqn) or Remind (ofhsec) and showing up to our meeting every other Wednesday!" If you have any questions, you can contact Amber Corman at 22cormanamb@ofcs.net.
Advisor(s): Mrs. Di-Loreto Smith sdiloreto@ofcs.net.

OFHS Film Society

Q1: "OFHS Film Society is an after school club that meets on Wednesdays. It's a really relaxed environment where we watch movies with a bunch of really cool people! This year our theme is originals versus the sequels/remake. We will be discussing what makes a good sequel or remake."

Q2: "We really just meet after school, but hopefully in the future we'll get to do some sort of field trip to a movie theater to watch a new release."

Q3: "Our Film Society is always accepting new members! If you wish to join, simply just show up for the meetings. No fees are required and it's incredibly low maintenance. There are announcements that will tell you when we're meeting, so if that movie interests you, feel free to join us on that day. This club is like a rotating door. There's constantly new people coming in and out just depending on what people take an interest in. Anyone is welcome to come!"

If you have any questions, you can contact Katie Cleary at 23clearykat@ofcs.net.

Advisor(s): Dr. Mercer jmercer@ofcs.net.

Helping Hands

Q1: "Helping Hands is where students of our community organize events to make our peers, who may need some extra help, feel included."

Q2: "We have organized basketball games, tailgates, a Christmas party, flag football tournament, and so many more fun events."

Q3: "We are always looking for more members. If you would like to join and help out, just go to Mr. Y's room and he can let you know when we have our next meeting and need help next!"

If you have any questions, you can contact Molly Murray at 23murraymol@ofcs.net.

Advisor(s): Mr. Y and Mrs. D edesforbes@ofcs.net.



Why Your New Year's Resolutions Never Work Out

By Katie Cleary and Hadley Allen

Work out more

To no one's surprise, this is the most common resolution just about ever. It sounds like a great idea before you actually have to get up and do it. We do not know a single person who has actually stuck to this. Most of the time this is paired with eating healthier (see below). Not to spoil it for you, but that one also results in failure more often than not. Occasionally both of these are paired with the infamous, spend less money, but this is directly contradictory (see below...again). Have fun on those "7 am runs" that you won't be doing.

Eat healthier

This is undoubtedly one of the more infamous resolutions, as it is often paired with "working out more." We believe this one fails so quickly because many don't understand the commitment it takes to eat healthier. Often, eating healthy dinners means you need to learn how to cook a healthy dinner first. And as cooking nutritious meals becomes inevitably more and more inconvenient, it seems that Oreo Mcflurries start looking better and better. Good luck on this one.

Save money

Yet another one of the most common resolutions out there. This one is commonly seen with both "work out more" and "eat healthier," as seen above. The thing is, these 3 resolutions will most likely fail if all tried at once. You want to get healthier, but healthy food options, gym memberships, or at-home work out equipment is all very expensive. Overall, it's probably better to stick to one resolution at a time; trying to do a complete 180° flip with your life every January never seems to work.

Stop procrastinating

Yeah, maybe next year.

Get good grades

This one is actually very possible, but its downfall seems to result from purely a lack of commitment. With the stress of being a high school student, nobody can blame you for slacking off here and there, but generally getting exceptionally good grades in every class requires a very dedicated study schedule. This inevitably leads to that "desire to succeed" fizzling out, as naps are much more enjoyable than reviewing vocab.

Learn a new language

Duolingo will absolutely help you with this endeavor, but you have to log on at least more than 5 times during the whole year. Most people who have tried this also decided to get a friend in on it. You were thinking that you'd both hold each other accountable, but that doesn't really work when they also only log in about 5 times during the whole year.

Use your phone less

This is just so unrealistic. Like all of these resolutions, it's not impossible, but its virtually never going to happen if you are part of Gen Z. We are so reliant on our phones for communication, as is everyone, that eliminating devices from our lives completely is very unlikely. Cutting back is possible, but in the nicest way possible, we have very little faith in you if this was your resolution of choice.

Marvel Movies To See In 2022

By Nora Barnard

In 1895 the first movie was made, *L'arrivée d'un train en gare de La Ciotat* by the Lumière brothers. It was a 50-second long film of a train arriving at the station, but it seemed as though it was going through the screen. Of course, since then film has evolved so much to produce the movies that we see in theaters today. People look forward to the latest and greatest hits to emerge from the movie industry every year. One of the most famous and loved movie sagas of all time is the Marvel Cinematic Universe. After last year, the MCU left us heartbroken after *Avengers: Endgame* wrapped up the storyline of the original avengers. Marvel left every

devoted fan wondering what would come next. They soon after announced phase four would be focused on individual character's storylines. As promised they have released a few TV shows, and even individual movies like *Black Widow* earlier this year. The new Marvel releases to look forward to in 2022 are as follows:

Dr. Strange in the Multiverse of Madness
Release Date- May 6, 2022

This movie supposedly follows Dr. Strange on his continued search on the Time Stone. Fan rumors speculate that the sorcerer supreme might be fixing

Spiderman's mess that he left after *Far from Home*. Another theory is the Scarlet Witch created the multiverse at the end of *Wandavision*; it is confirmed that Elizabeth Olsen who portrays Wanda is in the movie.

Thor: Love and Thunder

Release Date- July 8, 2022

Intended as a sequel to *Thor: Ragnarok*, the movie follows the enthusiastic Greek god on his next adventure. Marvel confirmed that Hemsworth's former costar in past Thor movies, Natalie Portman, will come back for the fourth movie! Fans think Portman's character, Jane Foster, will follow her comic book

legacy and become Mighty Thor.

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever

Release Date- November 11, 2022

After the untimely death of Black Panther actor Chadwick Boseman in August of 2020, fans thought Black Panther's storyline in the MCU would be over. They were pleasantly surprised by the announcement of another movie coming in 2022. The producer said he would not recast the role of T'Challa in honor of Chadwick, but the movie will serve to be a sequel to the original.

OFHS Cross Country Runners Enter National Race

By Ellie Phillips

Exciting news hit OFHS when we found out that some of our classmates decided to end their fall season in a big way. Senior Lillie Katsaras and junior Katie Clute decided to enter into a national race. The following is a short interview I conducted with both athletes!

Me: First, I'd like to ask how'd you get into running?

Lillie: My family has always been pretty active so we have always done 5ks for charity. I first joined cross country in 8th grade because I wanted to get in good shape for my main sport, swimming. Over the years I loved running more and more and eventually it took over my life, but in a good way!

Me: That's awesome! How did you get to run in the national race?

Lillie: Katie and I really wanted to compete in a cross country national race last year, but they were all canceled because of Covid. This year, there were a lot more options to extend our season and compete nationally. Before nationals, I raced at the Mid-East Senior Championship meet. At this meet, the top 12 seniors from 4 different states competed against each other and it was a lot of fun. The national meet in Alabama was a really cool event too because it was such a big meet. I decided to race here because of the nicer weather in the south and because it is the fastest course in the nation! It was a great experience and it was so much fun to run against girls from across the country!

Me: That is really amazing! Are you going to be

running for the track team or in college?

Lillie: Yes! A couple weeks ago I committed to Bowling Green for cross country and track and field!

Me: That is truly amazing, congratulations!

Me: So first how did you get into running?

Katie: I played soccer since I was really little. Then in seventh grade I started running cross country. Soccer is endurance, so I was running to train for soccer. I started liking running more and more, and here I am!

Me: That's awesome! How did you get to run in the national meet?

Katie: Anyone can sign up. Then they rank you by your best time. It's known as the fastest race so most of the people with faster times in the country sign up for it so they can race against the best.

Me: How would you describe the experience?

Katie: It was really awesome. Everyone there wanted to do their best and do well and was so excited. There was so much energy the whole time in both the runners and the crowd. It was really cool to see all the names I have read about in person, and comfortably wearing shorts and a T-shirt in December didn't hurt.

Me: That sounds like so much fun!

These girls are both amazing athletes, but not only that. They are some of the nicest girls in the world and are very humble. A huge congratulations to Lillie and Katie!

Bed Side Preference Report

By Katie Cleary

A little while ago I unintentionally stumbled upon a theory that quickly intrigued me to the point of further research. I found that, whether I am at my own house or someone else's, I prefer to lie on the left side of the bed. I began to wonder why this is, as it does seem like most people have a preconceived choice of where they want to sleep when choosing between the left and the right side of a bed. It then dawned on me that I may prefer the left side of any bed because it is where my nightstand and phone charger are located in my own room. And so my experiment began to find out if this is why others also have a certain side which they are most comfortable on.

Materials and Methods

In order to test the hypothesis, a small questionnaire was administered to any willing participant. If the participant has separated parents or two different beds they regularly sleep in, then the questionnaire was given twice. In order to gather data for this report, consenting subjects were asked a series of questions:

- How many beds do you regularly sleep in?
- What side of the bed do you sleep on? (might repeat)
- What side is the nightstand on? (might repeat)
- If they say both: "What side is your phone charger on?"
- What size is the bed? (might repeat)
- If you were at a sleepover and had your pick of which side of the bed you could have, what side would you choose?

Results

This field research was intended to provide evidence to support the hypothesis stating that people prefer the side of the bed with the phone charger on it, and the idea that this favoritism translates to other beds as well. Most people (66%) do not have a preference outside of their own bedrooms, but out of the minority that did, 5 out of 6 of the preferences (83%) are stated to be the same

as when they're at home. One response reported preferring the opposite side of the bed when not in their own room (17%). 13 out of the 18 (66%) responses reported sleeping on the same side of the bed that had the nightstand with the charger by it. There were 3 people who said they slept in the middle. One person stated that they sleep on both sides.

Discussion and Conclusion

The idea that people prefer the side of their own bed that has the nightstand with the charger on it has been supported. However, the theory that this preference would translate to different sleeping arrangements has not been supported completely. While some of those who had a preference preferred the side they sleep on at home, a vast majority of the respondents didn't care which side they slept on in a different bed.

A limiting factor that would affect the accuracy data lies in the delivery and order of the question, "If you were at a sleepover and had your pick of which side of the bed you could have, what side would you choose?" If this experiment were to be repeated, a bed would preferably be available, and then the subject would simply be asked to lie down. In retrospect, this test would be performed before informing the subjects of the initial question and objective regarding the experiment. After they had lay down, I would then ask them the questionnaire. Thinking about what side of the bed one would prefer after being informed of the purpose of the experiment wouldn't show a person's innate preference to the nightstand with the charger side. If this experiment were to be repeated, a new set of subjects would be vital to the integrity of accurate data.

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Bed Side 1	Nightstand 1	Bed 1 size	Is this the reg?	Bed Side 2 (??)	Nightstand 2	Bed 2 size
left	left	full	Yes	x	x	x
left	left	twin	Yes	x	x	x
right	N/A	queen	Yes	x	x	x
right	right	queen	yes	x	x	x
both	both	full	yes	x	x	x
left	left	double	yes	x	x	x
left	left	queen	yes	x	x	x
right	right	twin	yes	x	x	x
left	right	queen	yes	right	right	queen
right	right	queen	yes	x	x	x
left	left	Full	Yes	x	x	x
middle	left	twin	yes	x	x	x
middle	left	queen	yes	middle	left	queen
right	right	twin	yes	x	x	x
left	left	queen	yes	x	x	x
left	left	full	yes	x	x	x
middle	right	queen	yes	x	x	x
left	left	full	yes	x	x	x