

Syllabus for CLEP College Algebra

Prerequisite:

Successful Completion of Algebra 2

Support:

- **Ask a Math or Science Question:** Contact Dr. Shormann ([link](#))
- **How the Course Works:** support@diveintomath or call 936-372-9216 and select Tech Support for eLearning courses.

Supplies:

- Spiral-bound sketchbook or notebook (unlined paper preferred)
- Calculator:
 - Sign up to use the College Board's [Online Calculator](#) On CLEP exam day, whether at a CLEP test center or with remote proctoring, test takers aren't allowed to use their own calculators. Because of this, calculators are integrated into the CLEP exam software.
 - I highly recommend using this because it is the only calculator allowed on the CLEP Exam. Also, the more familiar you are with it, the less time it will take you to use it when you're doing the actual exam.

Orientation

1. Print this document and check off as each assignment is completed.
2. **Course Overview**
 - 20 Video Lessons: Complete one lesson per day as instructed below.
 - After completing all 20 lessons, take Practice Exam 1.
 - Use the Solutions video to re-learn and correct missed problems.
 - Take Practice Exam 2. Then, re-learn and correct missed problems.
 - Take Practice Exam 3, re-learn, and correct.
 - Register & take the exam at your local testing center.

3. Note: **Disregard the due dates** listed under each assignment. These are only used to put the assignments in order.
4. Read the Test Taking Tips at the end of this document.
5. Watch the Getting Started Video (click Assignments, Start Here, then College Algebra Instructions)

Lessons 1-20

There are 20 lessons. Each lesson has two parts, the lecture and the practice problems. To access the lessons, sign in to Canvas (invitation emailed after purchase), select Assignments, then Lessons.

I. Lecture Section

1. Select Lesson 1 and play. Take notes on headings, key points, and formulas.
2. Most importantly, after each example problem is taught, pause the lecture and solve it on your paper. Then turn the video back on.

II. Practice Problem Section (10-15 problems)

1. Dr. Shormann will write the first problem on the screen.
2. Pause the video and solve it on your paper.
3. Press play and watch Dr. Shormann's solution.
4. If you didn't do the problem correctly, solve it correctly on your paper.
5. Repeat these steps for each practice problem.

Practice Exam 1

After completing all 20 Lessons, follow these steps to take the first practice exam.

1. This is a multiple choice, computer-based exam with 60 questions. The grades are explained after the exam in the Solutions section.
2. The time limit is 90 minutes and each Practice Exam can only be taken once. It cannot be paused or saved. Please let others know not to disturb you during the exam.
3. Gather your supplies:

- [Online Calculator](#) is permitted in this section. You do not have to use a calculator on the CLEP exam, but if you do, you are only allowed to use this online calculator that is integrated in the College Board's exam taken at the testing center.
 - Blank paper for solving problems, pencil, and eraser
4. After the exam, regardless of your score, follow the steps in the Solutions for Practice Exam 1 (Assignments in the left menu, then scroll down to Solutions)
 5. When ready to start the exam, select Assignments in the left menu, then scroll down to Practice Exams and select Practice Exam 2.

Solutions for Practice Exam 1

1. Scores:

- **60 or Higher** - While this is a passing score and indicates you are ready to take the official CLEP exam at your local testing center, to be sure, Dr. Shormann recommends taking all three practice exams and completing the instructions in the Solutions for each exam.
- **Below 60** - Follow the steps below to re-learn and correct missed problems. If, after completing all three practice exams and solutions, you still don't earn a 60, continue taking timed practice tests using the free College Board practice exams or test prep book, like the Princeton Review which can be checked out at your local library.

2. Re-learn & Correct

- i. Watch the video solutions.
- ii. After each missed problem is solved, pause the video and try to solve the problem correctly on your paper.
- iii. If you can't or don't understand, make a note on your paper with the lesson # (red number in the video solution next to the correct answer). This is the lesson this problem was taught in.
- iv. Repeat steps 1-3 for each missed problem.
- v. For each missed problem you could not solve by watching the video

solutions, go back and watch the lesson video and do the practice problems for that lesson.

- vi. If you still don't understand, Ask Dr. Shormann ([link](#))
- vii. Take Practice Exam 2.

Practice Exam 2

After completing all 20 Lessons, follow these steps to take the first practice exam.

1. This is a multiple choice, computer-based exam with 60 questions. The grades are explained after the exam in the Solutions section.
2. The time limit is 90 minutes and each Practice Exam can only be taken once. It cannot be paused or saved. Please let others know not to disturb you during the exam.
3. Gather your supplies:
 - [Online Calculator](#) is permitted in this section. You do not have to use a calculator on the CLEP exam, but if you do, you are only allowed to use this online calculator that is integrated in the College Board's exam taken at the testing center.
 - Blank paper for solving problems, pencil, and eraser
4. After the exam, regardless of your score, follow the steps in the Solutions for Practice Exam 2 (Assignments in the left menu, then scroll down to Solutions)
5. When ready to start the exam, select Assignments in the left menu, then scroll down to Practice Exams and select Practice Exam 2.

Solutions for Practice Exam 2

1. Scores:

- **60 or Higher** - While this is a passing score and indicates you are ready to take the official CLEP exam at your local testing center, to be sure, Dr. Shormann recommends taking all three practice exams and completing the instructions in the Solutions for each exam.
- **Below 60** - Follow the steps below to re-learn and correct missed problems. If,

after completing all three practice exams and solutions, you still don't earn a 60, continue taking timed practice tests using the free College Board practice exams or test prep book, like the Princeton Review which can be checked out at your local library.

2. Re-learn & Correct

- i. Watch the video solutions.
- ii. After each missed problem is solved, pause the video and try to solve the problem correctly on your paper.
- iii. If you can't or don't understand, make a note on your paper with the lesson # (red number in the video solution next to the correct answer). This is the lesson this problem was taught in.
- iv. Repeat steps 1-3 for each missed problem.
- v. For each missed problem you could not solve by watching the video solutions, go back and watch the lesson video and do the practice problems for that lesson.
- vi. If you still don't understand, Ask Dr. Shormann ([link](#))
- vii. Take Practice Exam 3.

Practice Exam 3

After completing all 20 Lessons, follow these steps to take the first practice exam.

1. This is a multiple choice, computer-based exam with 60 questions. The grades are explained after the exam in the Solutions section.
2. The time limit is 90 minutes and each Practice Exam can only be taken once. It cannot be paused or saved. Please let others know not to disturb you during the exam.
3. Gather your supplies:
 - [Online Calculator](#) is permitted in this section. You do not have to use a calculator on the CLEP exam, but if you do, you are only allowed to use this online calculator that is integrated in the College Board's exam taken at the testing center.

- Blank paper for solving problems, pencil, and eraser
- 4. After the exam, regardless of your score, follow the steps in the Solutions for Practice Exam 3 (Assignments in the left menu, then scroll down to Solutions)
- 5. When ready to start the exam, select Assignments in the left menu, then scroll down to Practice Exams and select Practice Exam 3.

Solutions for Practice Exam 3

1. Scores:

- **60 or Higher** - After completing the steps under Re-learn & Correct, you are ready to take the official CLEP exam at your local testing center. See the Test Taking Tips at the end of this document.
- **Below 60** - Follow the steps below to re-learn and correct missed problems. Then, continue taking timed practice tests using the free College Board practice exams or test prep book, like the Princeton Review which can be checked out at your local library.

2. Re-learn & Correct

- i. Watch the video solutions.
- ii. After each missed problem is solved, pause the video and try to solve the problem correctly on your paper.
- iii. If you can't or don't understand, make a note on your paper with the lesson # (red number in the video solution next to the correct answer). This is the lesson this problem was taught in.
- iv. Repeat steps 1-3 for each missed problem.
- v. For each missed problem you could not solve by watching the video solutions, go back and watch the lesson video and do the practice problems for that lesson.
- vi. If you still don't understand, Ask Dr. Shormann ([link](#))
- vii. If needed, continue taking timed practice tests using the free College Board practice exams or a test prep book, like the Princeton Review which can be checked out at your local library.

Test Taking & Prep Tips

Apply these to the practice exams in this course and to your actual CLEP Exam.

1. Review online materials at www.collegeboard.com/clep
2. Write down all the formulas you know on the scratch test.
3. I highly recommend using the online calculator (under supplies on page 1) because the more familiar you are with it, the less time it will take you to use it when you're doing the actual exam.
4. Write down formulas on scratch paper before you start. Memorize your rules and definitions. When you go and take your CLEP Exam, the first thing you ought to do before you start it and before the timer starts, is to write down all the formulas that you know on the scratch paper that you're going to be given before the CLEP Exam. That should save you some time when you're doing the actual exam.
5. On multiple choice problems, try to eliminate choices. The majority of problems on the clep exam are multiple choice problems and a good way to solve these is to eliminate some choices first, especially if you're unsure of an answer. Most of the clep multiple choice problems have 5 choices, and the more of those you can eliminate the greater your chance of guessing, if you need to make an educated guess on a problem. So if there's 5 choices and you don't eliminate any and you make a guess, you have a 1 in 5 or 20% chance of getting it correct. If you can eliminate 3 choices you only have 2 left and you have a 1 in 2 or 50% chance of getting the problem correct.
6. Don't spend too much time on one problem. Pace yourself. If you have 60 problems on the test and 90 minutes allowed that means you have about 1 ½ minutes per problem. So don't spend more than a couple minutes on a problem unless you know where you're going
7. Attempt every problem. This is another good reason to pace yourself. If you have a 60 problem exam and your time is up after 50 problems maybe those last 10 were really easy but you never got to see them. That's why it's important not to spend too much time on a problem. Do the ones you're really familiar with first. Look at every problem and attempt every problem