Q&A session: Become an exam expert! Tips and tricks for the exams.

Infographic:

Questions:

What should I focus on studying for an open book exam?

Don’t forget that you have to understand the content very well, even if it is an open book exam. Knowing the structure of the book is important, but it is not enough: studying, analysing, memorising is needed. Secondly, it is important to make sure you present your answer in an academic way: using scientific language and a clear structure within your answer.

You mentioned linking topics: what is the quickest method to do this during an open book exam?

First of all, make sure you know and understand the content. Secondly, it is important to master the structure of the course. To do this, you can make your own detailed content table or MindMap (check if you are allowed to bring it to the exam!). By overviewing the table of content or MindMaps, you will be able to notice connections between different content parts.

Use a clear structure within the answer. First, announce the different topics/concepts you think the answer consists of. In the middle part of your answer, explain these different topics/concepts in detail and explain the connection between these content parts.

You mentioned post-it notes and mind maps. What else would be good to use?

Highlight key words and concepts: use different colours.

Use your own detailed, expanded content table if allowed.

What can you tell us about open-book exams consisting of only multiple choice questions. Are open book exams trickier than the regular closed book exams when it comes to the wording of the questions, exercises given etc.?

Multiple choice questions can be more difficult, because the answer might cover several content parts. The wording of the questions can also be misleading. One tip: read the question thoroughly!

More tips on digital education can be found here. Would you like an individual appointment? Talk to one of our study guidance colleagues. Any other questions? Contact us via guidance@vub.be.