Algebra I: What do I need to Study?

*Below is the test blueprint with important areas that will likely be tested. Note the percentages—they will tell you which areas are tested more than others. Other topics not listed may still be tested, but are not a focus of the test.*

**Numbers, Quantities, Equations, and Expressions 33 - 41%**

Polynomials, expressions, create/solve/re-arrange equations, write systems of equations, explain how to solve equations, solve inequalities.

**Functions 41 - 50%**

What is a function, function notation, interpret functions/applications of/context, represent and solve equations and inequalities graphically.

**Statistics 18 - 22%**

Rate of change/slope, intercept/constant, compute and interpret correlation coefficient with calculator, correlation versus causation.

How do I Study?

*Studying is a very individualized process. What may work for one student may not work for another student. Here are some ideas:*

* Study with music on in the background. Try classical!
* Study in a quiet area—remove any distractions such as a TV or a phone.
* Re-read notes to review information. No notes? Try websites like [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org) which maps out courses in order and has videos to watch to review concepts. Making your own notes is a way to study!
* Re-write your notes. Try using color/highlighters!
* Read your notes as the last thing you do before bed—sleep helps transfer information to long-term memory! Then, read them again in the morning.
* Teach a sibling, parent, or friend the concept in which you are studying.
* Organize your time—chunk your time so that you are spending a set amount of time on each topic.
* Memorize important vocabulary.
	+ Write out the word and the definition on a piece of paper as practice.
	+ Use flashcards—quiz yourself or have others quiz you! Make your own or use sites like [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com) or [www.studystack.com](http://www.studystack.com) to find a set someone else has already made.
	+ Make a home-made matching game.
	+ Create silly ways for difficult-to-remember words—make a silly story, or put the word/definition to a simple tune and sing it.
	+ Draw pictures that represent the word.
* Chew gum, especially mint-flavored. Mint helps activate the brain!
* Chunk information. Rather than looking an entire list or a whole notebook of notes, look at a little bit at a time, such as 5 vocab words or 2 pages of notes. Once you are familiar with that chunk, then move to the next chunk.
* Study the hardest subjects first, then go to the easiest.

**Perhaps most importantly, studying takes time and effort! Don’t put it off until the last minute!**