Below are some techniques that A-students use to achieve their A

1. Write down notes
   1. Organize them and expand them as soon as you can after the lecture
   2. Ask someone if you don’t understand something
   3. Highlight key terms, titles, subtitles
   4. Write out key things like concepts and definitions
   5. Use your own words. If you cannot do this then you have not learned it.
2. Use cue cards
   1. Summarize your notes
      1. Organize them using 1,2,3 or a,b,c or outline form (use this paper as a model)
   2. Flashcards for your vocabulary
   3. Study from these
      1. Read the title and say the rest from memory
3. Study out loud while walking around the room
   1. This keeps you alert and not bored
   2. 80% reciting, 20% reading is a good mix
   3. Act it out
   4. Teach it to a relative or friend or an empty chair (this reinforces and tells you if you really understood it)
4. Start studying for the exam as soon as you can.
   1. Waiting until the night before is too late and does not work
   2. Create a study schedule to organize your time
5. Test yourself off of the cue cards & flash cards
6. Do the practice test
   1. Look up all unfamiliar words and concepts or ask your teacher, and write it down
   2. Use online practice tests in addition to the one the your teacher gives you
      1. [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com)
      2. <https://getkahoot.com/>
7. Use memory tricks / mnemonics
   1. Acronyms
      1. Make a word where each letter is the first letter in the word of a key phrase
         1. AHTOMIM: A-horizon: topsoil, organic matter, inorganic minerals
   2. Coined saying
      1. Ex. “Righty tighty, lefty loosy” for tightening & loosening caps and screws
   3. Interacting Images
      1. Ex: carbohydrates have 4 calories/gram. Remember this counting the syllables in the word carbohydrate.
      2. Fats have 9 calories/gram. Remember this by remembering that a cat has nine lives, and the phrase “fat cats” mean a rich person. Mnemonic: picture fat cats with nine lives
      3. These work best if they are weird
8. While taking exams
   1. Multiple choice
      1. Flag questions the you are not sure
      2. Eliminate choices before guessing
      3. Only change your answer if you are sure
   2. Always check your answers before handing in the test
9. Study effectively for ½ hour than take a 5 minute break
10. Make a study place
    1. NOT your bed; not in your living room unless you are alone
    2. Use a small desk lamp as a study lamp-use it *only* for studying, and face away from your bed or food.
11. Don’t under-sleep. You make your memories long term when you are asleep.
12. Textbooks: SQRRR (survey, questions, read, review, respond)
    1. Survey: Read introduction, summary, and all captions
    2. Questions: Rewrite all subtitles as questions
    3. Read: Read the chapter
    4. Respond: Close the book and respond to all the questions
    5. Review: Open the book and review it to check and correct your answers

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