Study Skills for English Language Learners

ESL professionals realize that the best way to assess ELLs is to build assessment into instructional activities, scaffolding in order to provide support for students. However, it is important to realize that ELLs must learn to survive in the "real world" of content area classes.

It is important for classroom teachers to teach their ELLs certain study skills when preparing for tests.

- Teach students to study actively. They are more likely to remember material if it is written down or if they say it out loud rather than if it is only read or heard.

- Make sure your students comprehend the material they are studying; using graphic organizers and pictures as much as possible, especially with those students who are in the beginning stages of learning English. Creating a mental image or organizing information helps them to visualize what they are trying to learn.

- Break down the definitions into simpler terms. Intermediate students may speak in fluent English socially, but academically they are still trying to catch up.

- Assess prior knowledge so that you can connect new material to something your students already know. Teach students how to make this connection themselves so that they can begin to do so independently.

- Show the students how to pick out the most important concepts. They will not be able to memorize everything. ELLs need to learn how to concentrate on the main ideas, and pay attention to important information. This can be especially difficult for ELLs. Demonstrate this by having it repeated many times, provide the students with notes, or by saying "..this is important."

- Make vocabulary lists that have pictures with the texts. There is no point in memorizing concepts and vocabulary words if they do not know what they mean.
  - Group things into categories, and use graphics as much as possible.
  - Have them learn key words, and be able to pick them out when teaching vocabulary in content areas.

http://www.everythingesl.net/inservices/study_skills.php