2-Week Finals Study Planner

From the StudySim guide "How to Study for Finals: A 2-Week Game Plan" (studysim.ai/blog/how-to-study-for-finals). Print one copy per finals season. Based on the steps in the guide: map every final, rank them, sort topics, study with practice tests, space and mix subjects, protect sleep.

1. Map and rank your finals

List every final, paper and project due in finals week. Weight = share of the course grade (check your syllabus). Difficulty: 1 = comfortable, 2 = shaky, 3 = struggling. Priority: rank 1 = most study time (high weight + high difficulty + earliest date).

Course	Exam date and time	Weight (% of grade)	Cumulative? (Y/N)	Difficulty (1-3)	Priority rank

2. Topic triage (one table per course; copy as needed)

Course: _____. "Definitely" = on the review sheet or syllabus objectives; "probably" = covered in lecture and homework; "might" = mentioned once. Color: red = can't explain it, yellow = partly, green = can answer from memory.

Topic	Definitely / probably / might	Red / yellow / green	Rechecked (date)

3. 14-day calendar

Count back from your first final (Day 1 = the day before it). The suggested task is a default; write your own courses in the block columns. Give your top-priority final the most blocks.

Day	Suggested focus	Block 1 (course + method)	Block 2 (course + method)	Done
Day 14 Date: _____	Map every final; gather syllabi, review sheets and old exams; rank finals			☐
Day 13 Date: _____	Sort topics into definitely / probably / might; mark red, yellow, green; build the schedule			☐
Day 12 Date: _____	First practice test, hardest final; mark red topics			☐
Day 11 Date: _____	Study red topics, hardest final; second course practice quiz			☐
Day 10 Date: _____	Rotate: two courses, one practice block each			☐
Day 9 Date: _____	Rotate: two other courses; flashcards for missed items			☐
Day 8 Date: _____	Catch-up / buffer day; review week-one misses			☐
Day 7 Date: _____	Timed practice test for one course; short review of another course			☐
Day 6 Date: _____	Timed practice test for one course; redo missed questions from memory			☐
Day 5 Date: _____	Timed practice test for one course; short review of another course			☐
Day 4 Date: _____	Mixed review: questions from all courses shuffled			☐
Day 3 Date: _____	Office hours / review session; last full practice test			☐
Day 2 Date: _____	Short review of misses only; light flashcards			☐
Day 1 Date: _____	Quick recall check, pack materials, sleep			☐

4. Session log

After each block, note what you tested and what you missed. Missed items go to the next block for that course.

Date	Course	Method (practice test, flashcards, explain aloud, problems)	Score or misses	Next step

5. Night-before and exam-day checklist

- ☐ Reviewed only the questions I missed, not the whole course
- ☐ Stopped studying early enough to get a full night of sleep (CDC: 7+ hours for adults, 8-10 for ages 13-17)
- ☐ Checked exam time, room, and what to bring (ID, calculator, pencils)
- ☐ Packed water and a snack; ate a real meal before the exam
- ☐ Did a 10-minute recall warm-up (no new material)
- ☐ Updated this planner for the next final

Sources used in the guide: Dunlosky et al. (2013) on practice testing and distributed practice; Roediger and Karpicke (2006) on the testing effect; The Learning Scientists on interleaving; CDC sleep recommendations. StudySim, studysim.ai.