

How to Study for the Principles DECA Exam



The DECA Exams are nothing like the exams we take in school. We don't ever learn that material, it is not common knowledge, and it is unusually confusing. But, with the right study tactics, you can get a competitive score.

Study Tactics:

1. Take a Practice Test without prep
 - a. **Why?** This will allow you to see what you know and don't know. Then, you can use what you got wrong to decide what to study. Every single question is derived from one of the Instructional Areas. If you notice that a lot of your wrong questions deal with money, you likely need to brush up on the Financial Analysis Instructional Area. If you are struggling with timing, then practice is the only way to improve.
2. Use the Instructional Area information you learned to study those areas
 - a. **Why?** By studying what you aren't good at, you can fill your gaps which allows for a better overall test.
 - b. **How?** To study an instructional area, you should understand all the PIs for that instructional area from the Performance Indicator document. That is a comprehensive document that will bring comprehensive understanding.
3. Take a practice test every 1-2 weeks
 - a. **Why?** If you study for 1-2 weeks, then take a test, you can track your improvement in some areas, and potentially identify new areas that you have just been really lucky guessing at. It is important to be aware of your progress, because if you lose track, then you may not do as well.