Emergency Test Prep - Cramming

Although we don’t recommend it, here is a structured approach to cramming for an exam:

• Preview material to be covered
• Be selective -- skim chapters for main points
• Concentrate on the main points

To start:

1. Begin with 5 sheets of paper:
2. Identify 5 key concepts or topics that will be covered on the test. Enter one at the top of each page. Use only key words or short phrases.
3. In your own words, write an explanation, definition, answer, etc. Do NOT use the text or your notes.
4. Compare your response of (2) with the course source information (text and lecture notes).
5. Edit or re-write your understanding of each topic considering this course information.
6. Sequence and number each page of your topics 1 - 5 in order of importance; 1 = most important.
7. Follow the above process for two additional concepts if you have time.
8. Place them in the 1 - 5 sequence and change numbering to 1 - 7.
9. Follow the above process for one or two more concepts for a total of nine. Follow your comfort level; add topics only as necessary.
10. Try not to exceed nine concepts; focus on the most important.
11. Review the day of the test, but give yourself some time to relax before taking the test.