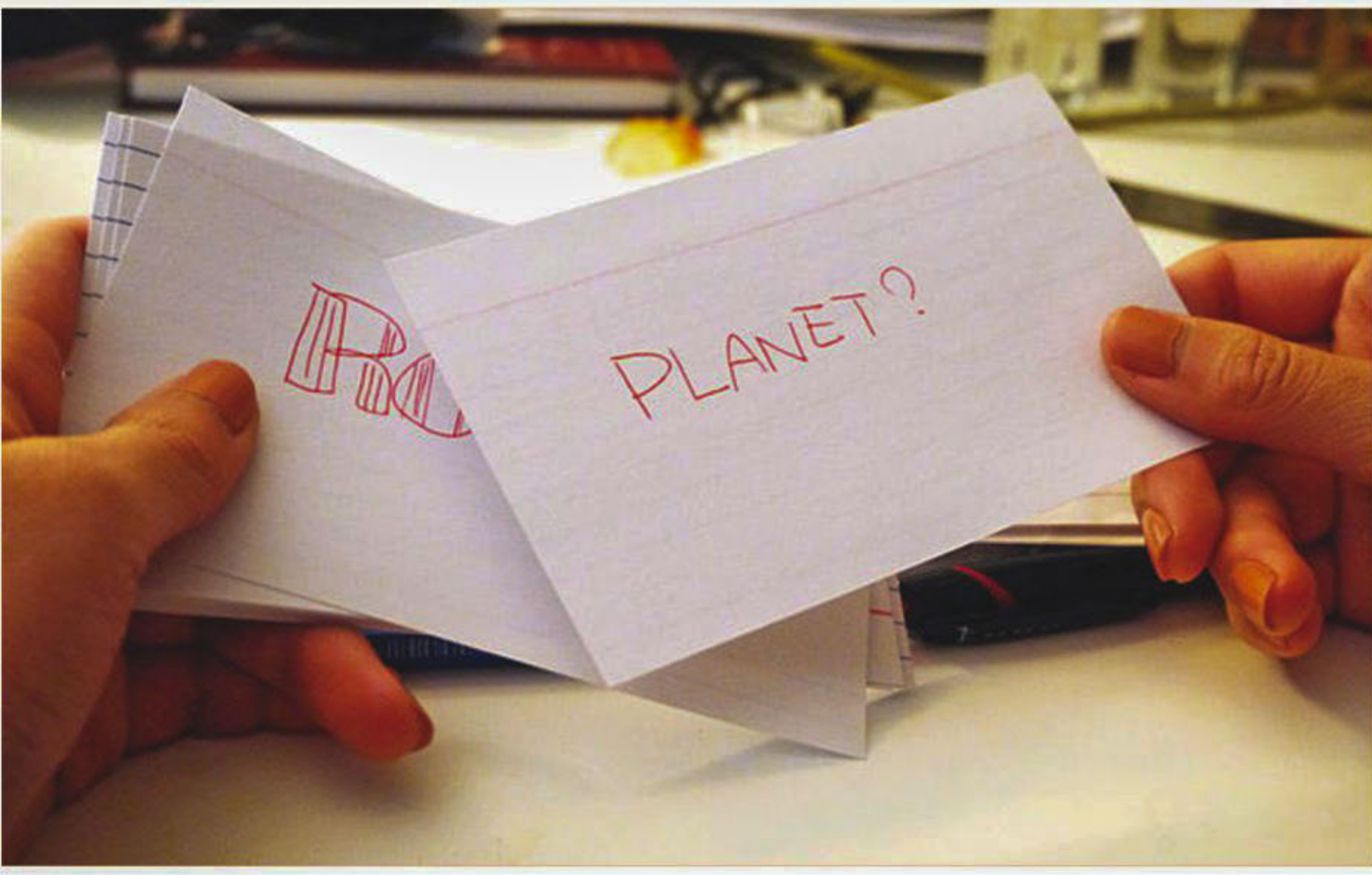


(NOT SO) Effective Study Techniques



SALMA MOHAMMAD ALI

Are you wondering why your grades aren't improving much, in spite of those long hours you spent studying, revising and practicing? It's very likely your studying techniques are to blame. Some methods, no matter how popular they are may just be a waste of your time.

Group Study: Studying in groups is a great idea, right? You all help each other out; two heads are better than one, and so on. But is it really the case? Almost always group study can be summarised as such: One student, the most intelligent one, finds themselves explaining topics to the others and not getting much study help to benefit themselves. A friend was nice

enough to let the group study at his place; well, his mom was nice enough to bring snacks every five minutes. Yes, studying on an empty stomach is terrible for concentration but so is munching on crisps, cookies and candy one after the other. Suddenly someone changes the topic from geometry to what that girl in your English class did, and then begins the gossip. Group studying is only likely to be effective if the members, of similar capability, cooperate enough to simplify the topics at hand for all the members and on top of that various distractions need to be kept in check.

MCQs and Quizzes: Many believe answering dozens of MCQs is the perfect way to revise a topic. Imagine having to

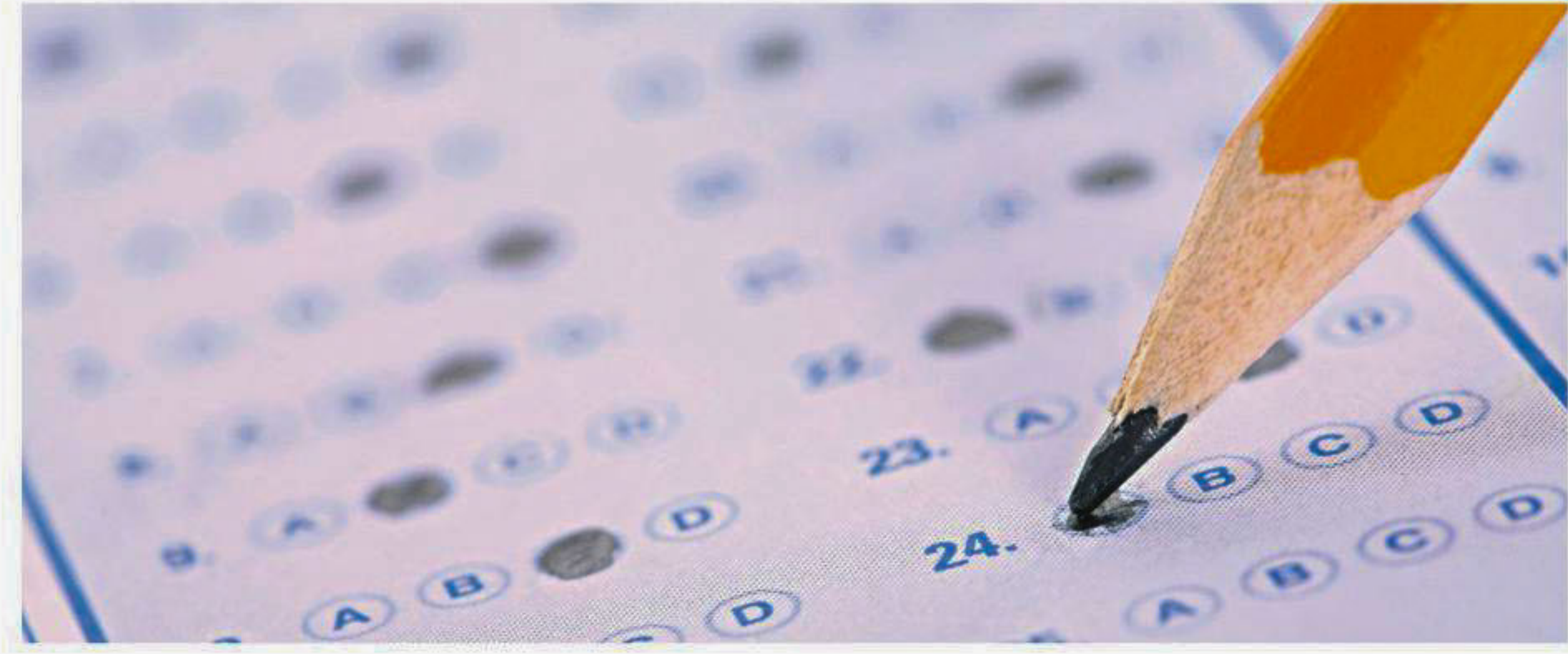
sit for an exam on a literature book, taking quizzes will probably help you learn only certain details rather than bigger, more important events as a whole. When you're taking the exam and answering broad questions you may fail to link the details with each other, as you've only practiced answering them separately. On the other hand many of our exams do contain a section of MCQs, in these cases of course, practicing them is a must. But when our goal is to learn a topic thoroughly, be it literature or chemistry, relying heavily on MCQs will mean poor preparation.

Flashcards: I've heard quite a few people saying that flashcards are a quick and effective method of learning. In reality, studying using flashcards may be no better than asking yourself to simply memorise information, without really learning anything. Furthermore it can cause your brain to muddle up information, mixing up definitions of similar sounding words as you learned them one

after the other. However flashcards aren't completely useless, they can be recommended only when learning a small number of short definitions.

Of the various study techniques available, some work better than others, and they all depend on what you're studying. However, a few are bound to be helpful most of the time. Breaking down the topic and studying it part by part simplifies your work. So does taking notes. If you find study groups aren't helping you much, one-on-one study is a much better alternative even if it's using websites and YouTube channels that enhance active learning. A cousin found a few YouTube channels very helpful for GRE preparation; these are conducted by people who've done really well on the exam and demonstrate with tips how to answer sample questions. You may also find online courses, like those Coursera offers, helpful.

Link to Coursera:
<https://www.coursera.org>



THE ANNUAL PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION & MASQUERADE MEDLEY IV

MUHAMMAD MUHTASIM JAWAD

After the event's inception back in 2011, the fourth instalment of "The Annual Public Speaking Competition and Masquerade Medley IV" was presented by the North South University English Club on February 28, 2015 at the Recreation Center, NSU. The venue remained abuzz with excited attendees who showcased their creative talents. As per tradition, the event featured a public speaking contest, this time with the tagline "Speak Up", and of course, the much awaited costume party.

This year, "Wild Wild West" was the theme of the event. The giant backdrop of a dusty desert town was set up, while the walls bore articles like paper horses and fairy lights that only complemented the atmosphere.

The programme began as Farzana Mohsin, the faculty advisor of the club, inaugurated the proceedings with a speech. The panel of judges comprised Tamoha Binte Siddiqui, alumna and ex-president of the club; and special guest Yamin Khan, prominent comedian who has performed at major events such as



TEDxDhaka. The Top 10 speakers, who were selected in a preliminary round earlier, had been called upon the stage. The topic was: "Freedom of speech: A reality or an illusion in today's world?" Soon enough, the competitors delivered speeches that ignited much tension in the hall.

Later, the participants for the costume

contest walked onto the stage and introduced themselves as all-time famous Western ballads were played in the background. The costumes ranged from the elusive Zorro to Angelica from "Pirates of the Caribbean" and from cheerful witches to beautiful goddesses – there was originality everywhere.

After both the events ended, Director,

Student Affairs of NSU, Professor Dr. M. Emdadul Haq, took to the stage to discuss how to speak effectively. "The art of public speaking enables you to handle many surprisingly difficult situations," he added. Soon, the award giving ceremony began. The winners of the public speaking competition – Asif Mahtab, Nusaiba Mirza and Mushfiqur Rahman – were handed crests and prize money. As for the costume contest, the "Showgirl" (Alruza Rahman Dristy), "Mr. Darcy" (Niladry Sabir), and "Naruto" (Faisal Islam) bagged the awards in separate categories.

"Speech is the mode of our rationality. It is what makes us human. Masquerade Medley allowed us to be heard, even amid a nation filled with noise," said Asif Mahtab, who won the "Best Speaker" award.

Yamin Khan, with his usual hilarious performance, ensured that the participants would return home with smiles on their faces as the curtains fell on this edition of the event.

FIVE and The Gingerbread Girl were the gift and the food partners respectively. SHOUT was the English print media partner for the event.