

EQUESTRIA GIRLS SHORTS - "THE FINALS COUNTDOWN"-

Music Video Short- Beat Sheet

By Gillian Berrow

LOGLINE: Finals are looming. The girls decide to put their noses to the grindstone and take part in an intense, study boot-camp helmed by Twilight Sparkle in order to prepare. By the end, finals are a total breeze!

SONG CONCEPT: When we put our heads together and help each other out, we can achieve greater things (and pass our tests).

Song references: "The Final Countdown" by Europe, "Getcha Head in the Game" from High School Musical.

VISUAL CONCEPT: Sporty training montage, but with study skills. "From students to masters."

STORY BEATS:

We open on the MANE SEVEN in a class together. The TEACHER points to a calendar on the wall. ZOOM IN to reveal that the date is circled in red.

TEACHER

And I hope you're all prepared,
because final exams are in two weeks!

PAN ACROSS the nervous faces of the girls. As we pass each one, they look down the line to next one. At the end is TWILIGHT SPARKLE. She looks determined and confident. Phew!

TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Don't worry, girls! We are going to
ace these finals.

CUT TO:

TWILIGHT'S BEDROOM: Twilight is wearing a SWEATBAND around her head and a WHISTLE hangs from her neck. She has a CLIPBOARD. She marches back and forth like an excited drill sergeant.

Twilight points to a HUGE WHITEBOARD. On it, there are drawings that look almost like sports plays. The study plan. The girls nod in response. Twilight blows into her whistle.

CLOSE UP: Hands sharpening PENCILS, straightening FLASHCARDS, grabbing CALCULATORS, cracking knuckles.

MONTAGE: The girls taking part in a series of academic study exercises. As the montage goes on, the cuts become faster.

- CUT TO: Sunset Shimmer and Applejack face Twilight in a game show style setup, standing at two PODIUMS. Sunset points to a topic and Twilight reads the question. Applejack and Sunset both hit the buzzers. They light up. Sunset makes a guess. Wrong! A huge red X blinks. Sunset "facepalms".

- CUT TO: CHS track. Rarity and Rainbow Dash do PUSH-UPS over OPEN BOOKS. We ZOOM INTO the page and it becomes...

- FLASHCARDS. ANGEL BUNNY holds them up (sitting outside on the grass). Fluttershy answers and Angel shakes his head "no". In the background, Pinkie Pie throws a bunch of flashcards into the air and skips through them. They RAIN DOWN to reveal...

- Twilight's STOPWATCH. She hits the button and the time starts! We pull out to see the girls in Twilight's room, all scribbling furiously on their papers. Twilight presses STOP and the girls all look up, breathing hard. Twilight writes the answer on the board. The girls slump down.

CUT BACK TO:

- GAME SHOW SETUP: Another question for Sunset and Applejack. This time, the rest of the Mane Seven cheer her on from the "audience". Sunset gets it right! Applejack and Sunset high-five. Twilight nods, proud.

- CHS TRACK: Now, all seven girls do push-ups over the open books. Their arms are tired, but they finish the set! FROM ABOVE: They stack the books one by one, then their hands over them to do a "GO TEAM!" move.

- OUTSIDE ON THE GRASS: Angel Bunny holds up a flashcard. Fluttershy answers it right. She turns around and holds up a different flashcard for Pinkie Pie, who answers it right. Then Pinkie does the same for Applejack. It goes down the line. Each girl smiles as she gets her answer right.

- TWILIGHT'S ROOM: The stopwatch goes again. More scribbling. The girls look up for the answer. Twilight gives them a thumbs up.

- CLOSE UPS (in quick succession): Hands slamming the buzzers, turning pages of books, shuffling flashcards, pencils writing furiously...

- WIDEN TO REVEAL that this time, the pencils were held by the Mane Seven actually in class on the day of the final exams! One by one, they finish and drop their pencils like a "mic drop".

The BELL RINGS.

They did it! They all smile and laugh as we...

FADE OUT.