Final Exam Preparation Strategy

This is just a suggestion, but it's how I would prepare for the final. Again, beware that I have no idea what will appear on the final.

Note that 60% of the final will cover material since the last exam, which covers about six powerpoint presentations. Compare this to the other 40% covering material that you should have already seen and which spans a little bit less than three months worth of lectures. Also note that the first seven homeworks were included in the material up to the second exam leaving only the last homework as an “untested homework.” That being said, the material since the second exam should also be the freshest in your mind.

• Look over the class notes that have not yet appeared on an exam in detail. This comprises only a small percentage of all the class notes and it should also go relatively quickly since it should be the freshest material. It also allows you to see which concepts are stressed more than others.
• Take a look at the chapters corresponding to the above-mentioned lectures (only two or three I believe) paying particular attention to the concepts highlighted in the class notes. Also, look at the summaries at the end of the chapters.
• Look at the review questions and the homework solutions (that should be posted Tuesday or Wednesday) and make especially sure that you understand the homework.
• Look through the above-mentioned class notes again and following that, now add notes to your exam notes sheet, so that you have a better idea of what ideas are important and you aren't stuck writing everything imaginable down.
• Look at your past exams and understand why you missed points reviewing the material where you lost points. Also, try and remember what questions were asked on the previous exams (not just the ones you chose to answer) so you again have a feel for what was stressed.
• Look at the review questions for the first two exams and see how the questions compared to questions that appeared on the exams.
• Remember that of all the material covered in the first two exams, only two questions regarding that material will appear on the final, so you should make sure you have a good handle on the general ideas and the broader concepts.
• Finally, I would split the material up such that on one day I would do bullets one through four and on another day I would do five through seven.