

Grade 3 Test-Taking Strategies and Tips

It's much easier to take a test when you've worked out a plan beforehand. Here are six strategies that will help you do better on tests. Learning how and when to use these strategies is your test-taking plan. With this plan in place, you'll be well-prepared to tackle any test question!

Strategy 1: Process of Elimination

This strategy shows you how to get rid of wrong answers and narrow down your choices. It's easier to pick the right answer when you have fewer options to choose from.

Strategy 2: Using Context Clues

This strategy teaches you how to spot clues in the test item that will help you figure out the answer. Clues can be hiding in the directions, the passage, or the answer choices.

Strategy 3: Read the Questions and Answers First

This strategy helps you practice reading the questions and possible answers before reading a passage. Previewing the questions and answers helps you know what information to look for as you read.

Strategy 4: Underlining Key Words

This strategy teaches you how to locate important information in the test item. Underlining these key words and phrases makes them easy to see and helps you focus on the best answer.

Strategy 5: Plug-In

This strategy shows you how to "test out" each answer choice by plugging it into a sentence or phrase. You can then cross out answers that don't make sense and find the answer that is the best fit.

Strategy 6: Reread

This strategy reminds you to reread the directions, a passage, or the answer choices when you need to. Rereading can help you clarify a question or find information that you need in order to find the best answer.

Once you know how to apply these six strategies, you can use the one that will help you the most. You may also want to use two or three strategies together to find the best answer.

Answers to Practice Test

1. (A) ● (C) (D)
2. (A) (B) ● (D)
3. (A) (B) (C) ●

4. (A) ● (C) (D)
5. (A) ● (C) (D)
6. ● (B) (C) (D)

Grade 3 Practice Test: Reading Comprehension (Nonfiction)

Directions: Read the passages. Fill in the circle next to the best answer.

Sample Question

The Dead Sea is a big lake between the countries of Israel and Jordan. The water in the Dead Sea is very salty. It's ten times saltier than ocean water. The salt water makes everything float on top of the water—even people!

What effect does the salty water have on objects?

- (A) It is ten times better than ocean water.
- (B) It makes everything float.
- (C) It makes the water a darker color.
- (D) It makes people sink in the water.

Reading the question first helps you find the information you need in the last sentence. The correct answer is B.



REMINDER: Preview the questions and answers first so you know what to look for as you read the passage.

Now, read the passage and answer questions 1-2.

Jane Goodall loved animals and nature from the time she was very young. When Jane was 18 months old, her mother found her playing with earthworms in her bed! While visiting a farm at the age of four, Jane watched a hen lay eggs. Her favorite books were *The Story of Dr. Dolittle*, *The Jungle Book*, and books about Tarzan.

By the time Jane was 11, she knew that she wanted to work with animals in Africa. This was an unusual dream for a young girl in the 1940s. There weren't many female scientists at that time. Most English women did not travel to Africa to work, but Jane was determined.

Jane Goodall's dream came true when she was 23. She traveled to Kenya. Dr. Louis Leakey, a famous scientist, hired Jane as an assistant. Soon, Jane began her own research on chimpanzees. Her research changed the way scientists study wild animals. Jane became an important scientist and helped people understand animals.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) Becoming a scientist was difficult for women during the 1940s.
- (B) As a young girl and later as a famous scientist, Jane Goodall enjoyed studying chimpanzees and wild animals.
- (C) Jane Goodall did research with Dr. Louis Leakey even though women did not usually become scientists.
- (D) Jane enjoyed playing with animals and reading books about animals as a child.

Grade 3 Practice Test: *(continued)*

2. How did Dr. Louis Leakey help Jane reach her dream?

- Ⓐ Jane visited Dr. Leakey at his farm and watched a hen lay eggs.
- Ⓑ Dr. Leakey traveled with Jane to Africa.
- Ⓒ Dr. Leakey gave Jane a job as his helper, and she was able to begin research.
- Ⓓ Jane visited Dr. Leakey in Africa as a young girl.

Read the passage and answer questions 3–6. Stop at the end of the test.

Fascinating Features

The cuttlefish may be one of the strangest-looking creatures around. They are actually not fish at all. Cuttlefish look something like both an octopus and a squid. Their bodies are shaped like sacs. They have eight arms and two feeding tentacles. A sucker is on the end of each arm and each tentacle. The mouth of a cuttlefish is shaped like a beak, and the tongue is like a wire brush! The most amazing cuttlefish feature is their eyes. They have eyes that are shaped like the letter W.

Blending In

As interesting-looking as cuttlefish are, you might never see one. Why? Their skin can change color, so they can easily hide. This is called camouflage. They can blend into many different ocean backgrounds. Cuttlefish can look like rocks or like the sandy ocean floor.

A Light Appetite

A funny thing happens to a cuttlefish when it sees a fish it wants to eat. As it looks at its prey, the cuttlefish's skin starts to change color. The skin color changes so quickly, it actually looks like flashing lights. These flashing lights distract the prey so that it stands still. That makes it easier for the cuttlefish to catch a fish for dinner!

3. How many arms does a cuttlefish have?

- Ⓐ 2
- Ⓑ 10
- Ⓒ 3
- Ⓓ 8

4. Which section tells you why you probably won't see a cuttlefish?

- Ⓐ Fascinating Features
- Ⓑ Blending In
- Ⓒ A Light Appetite
- Ⓓ none of these

5. The section "A Light Appetite" tells how

- Ⓐ cuttlefish use camouflage to hide from prey.
- Ⓑ the skin of the cuttlefish changes color quickly to distract other fish.
- Ⓒ other fish are afraid of the cuttlefish.
- Ⓓ the eyes of a cuttlefish are shaped like the letter W.

6. Which would be a good title for this passage?

- Ⓐ An Amazing-Looking Creature
- Ⓑ All About Fish
- Ⓒ Under the Sea
- Ⓓ How to Use Camouflage