



Test Taking Strategies

How to take a Multiple Choice
Test in Math and English

Before the Test

- ☐ Get a good nights sleep - 8 hours
 - ☐ Go to bed on time the night before
 - ☐ Food - Eat fruits and vegetables
 - ☐ Don't take the test on an empty stomach
 - ☐ Don't eat a heavy meal
 - ☐ Don't eat junk food or candy
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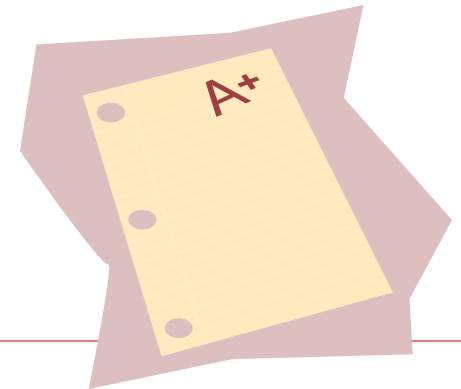
Before the Test

- ❑ Approach the exam with confidence
 - use your "passing pencil"
- ❑ Don't doubt yourself
 - Think Positive!!



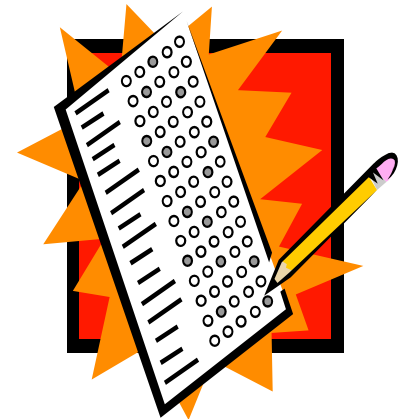
General Strategies

- ❑ Maintain upright posture - don't slouch over your test
- ❑ Take your time - there is no reward for finishing first.
- ❑ Most Importantly - Do NOT Panic!!!!
- ❑ Read the question and **ALL** answer choices before marking anything



General Strategies

- ☐ Read the directions carefully
 - If you don't understand the directions ask for help
- ☐ Work the easiest problems first
- ☐ Work the difficult problems last
- ☐ Pace Yourself
 - Don't spend too much time on any one problem - do your best and move on.



General Strategies

- ☐ Read the answers carefully
- ☐ Mark your answers carefully
- ☐ Don't Leave Anything Blank
 - Answer all the questions - there is not a penalty for answering incorrectly



General Strategies

- Your 1st choice answer is usually correct
 - don't change your answer unless you are sure of the correction
 - Skip any question that you don't know how to do
 - Mark the question and go back to it later
 - Find key **words** or **phrases** in the question that will help you choose the correct answer
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English Strategies

- ☐ Know the definitions of terms
 - ☐ Use hints from the questions you know the answer to in order to answer questions you do not know the answer.
 - ☐ When there are several questions about a reading passage or chart, look for clues in other questions that will help you with these items about which you are unsure.
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Reading Passages

☐ Reading Comprehension -

- Read the question 1st before you read the passage. By doing this, you will know what you are looking for as you read.
- This also helps you go faster on the test.



Math Strategies

- ☐ Eliminate any wrong answers
 - If you eliminate 2 wrong answers, your chance of choosing the right answer is greater.
 - ☐ Estimate answers
 - ☐ Check your answers
 - ☐ If your answer does not match one of the choices, reread the problem, recopy the numbers and try solving again
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Math Computation

☐ Work Backwards

- Plug the answer back into the problem and see if it works.

☐ When you use scratch paper on a math test, double check that you have copied the problem correctly from the test booklet.

Math Strategies

- Write question in a familiar form.
 - ie. #2 should be written instead as

$$\frac{9^3}{9^5}$$

Math Strategies

- Underline any negative words
 - ie. #13 One student is chosen from among 5 boys and 9 girls. What is the probability that a girl is not chosen.
 - A $5/14$ **
 - B $5/9$
 - C $9/14$
 - D $4/5$
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Math Strategies

□ Use Substitution

■ ie. #12 What is the value of $(m^2)^2 + n^2 - n^3$
when $m = 2$ and $n = 3$

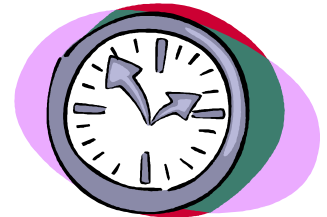
$$\begin{aligned}(2^2)^2 + 3^2 - 3^3 &= (4)^2 + 9 - 27 \\ &= 16 + 9 - 27 \\ &= -2\end{aligned}$$

Educated Guessing

- ☐ If you have to guess - Make an educated guess
 - ☐ Eliminate answers that you know are wrong or don't seem to fit.
 - ☐ Plug in all answers into the question.
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A Matter of Time

- ☐ If any time remains, spend it on those questions that you struggled with or did not know.
- ☐ As you go back over the test, do not change all your answers
- ☐ **REMEMBER:** Your FIRST guess is usually right.



Final Tips

- ☐ Fill in bubbles fully
 - ☐ Write neatly
 - ☐ Erase any stray marks
 - ☐ REMEMBER - it is okay not to know everything
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