

SUCCESS WITH MULTIPLE-CHOICE TEST QUESTIONS

STRATEGIES BEFORE THE TEST

- Understand the format of M-C tests.
- Reduce your test anxiety
- Skim tests and plan a time schedule
- Read directions carefully
- Answer all questions, usually
- Check your answers, if possible
- Ignore other test-takers

STRATEGIES DURING THE TEST

- Eliminate distracters
 - Select answers you have learned
 - Look for clues in the language of the questions
 - Use your basic vocabulary skills
 - Read all possible answers
 - Choose credited answers
 - Treat options as a true and false questions
 - Reread questions before choosing answers
 - Don't be confused by examples
 - Don't be confused by sequences
 - Underline *not, except, least, and false*
 - Question whether answers should be general or specific
 - Try defining the questions in your own words
 - Question absolute statements
 - Check exact quotes *carefully*
 - Know more complete statements may be correct answers
 - *All of the above* may be the correct answer
 - One of two *similar-looking* answers may be correct
 - One of two *opposite-meaning* statements may be correct
 - Split pairs must both be correct
 - All questions should be answered
 - Guess if there is no penalty for guessing
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- If questions are keyed to a passage, read the questions first.
 - If it is a paper and pencil tests, answer the easy questions first.

STRATEGIES AFTER THE TEST

- Do *plan* to learn from your incorrect answers

- Do ask *why* those answers were incorrect
- Did you *misinterpret* some statements?
- Did you *only partially read* the questions?
- Did you miss the *negatives* or *qualifiers*?
- Did you mark the *wrong space*?
- Do analyze the instructor's *answer pattern*
- Do ask what was the *source* of the test questions
- Do decide what test preparations work *best for you*.