

College Placement Test Preparation Suggestions

Try to avoid the most common test mistakes

- MISREADING THE QUESTION
- NOT FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS
- NOT ELIMINATING UNLIKELY ANSWER CHOICES BEFORE GUESSING
- RUSHING UNNECESSARILY

Strategies for reading comprehension tests

1. Read as much of the passage as possible--even if you don't understand all the words.
2. Read each question and all answer choices.
3. Refer back to the passage to be sure your answer is correct.
(This is NOT a test of your ability to memorize the passage!)
Some questions test your ability to locate stated information while others test your ability to infer. For example:
 - In what year did . . . (you are expected to locate stated information.)
 - The author of the passage probably. . . (you are expected to make an educated guess based on the passage.)

Strategies for English sentence skills tests

1. Read all answer choices.
2. Don't expect to be able to visualize every answer; try rewriting items with each answer choice substituted.

Strategies for math tests

1. Use scratch paper.
2. Write out steps, even if the problem looks easy.
3. Check your work.

***Try online test preparation materials from Aims Community College:
http://www.aims.edu/assessment_site/study_guides.htm. Explore sample tests at: http://www.yccd.edu/district/students/testing/sample_test.htm