

Test Taking Tips: Test Types

Source: <http://www.testtakingtips.com/>

Multiple Choice Test Taking Tips

- ✓ Read the question before you look at the answer.
- ✓ Come up with the answer in your head before looking at the possible answers, this way the choices given on the test won't throw you off or trick you.
- ✓ Eliminate all the answer options you know are incorrect.
- ✓ Read all the choices before choosing your answer.
- ✓ Question those options that do not seem to fit grammatically with the phrase.
- ✓ Question those options that contain negative or absolute words; e.g. "always," "never," etc.
- ✓ If there is no guessing penalty, always take an educated guess and select an answer.
- ✓ If you are confident in your answer, do not change it. Your first choice is usually the right one, unless you misread the question.
- ✓ In "All of the above" and "None of the above" choices, if you are certain one of the statements is true do not choose, "None of the above," or if one of the statements is false, do not choose, "All of the above."
- ✓ In a question with an "All of the above" choice, if you see that at least two statements are correct, then "All of the above" is probably the answer.
- ✓ A positive choice is more likely to be true than a negative one.
- ✓ Usually the correct answer is the choice with the most information.

True-False Test Taking Tips

- ✓ There are usually more true answers than false on most tests.
- ✓ If there is no guessing penalty, then guess. You have a 50% chance of getting the right answer.
- ✓ Read through each statement carefully, and pay attention to the qualifiers and keywords.
- ✓ Qualifiers like "never, always, and every" mean that the statement must be true all of the time. Usually these type of qualifiers lead to a false answer.
- ✓ Qualifiers like "usually, sometimes, and generally" mean the statement can be considered true or false depending on the circumstances. Usually these type of qualifiers lead to an answer of true.
- ✓ If any part of the question is false, then the entire statement is false; but just because part of a statement is true does not necessarily make the entire statement true.

Short Answer Test Taking Tips

- ✓ Prepare for this type of test by creating flashcards: writing key terms, dates, or concepts on the front and the definition, event, or explanations on the back.
- ✓ Try to anticipate questions that will be asked on the test and prepare for them. Usually what the instructor emphasizes in class will be on the test.
- ✓ Try not to leave an answer blank. Show your work/write down your thoughts even if you do not get the exact answer, partial credit can sometimes be awarded.
- ✓ If you do not know the answer, come back to it after you finish the rest of the test and make an educated guess. Other parts of the test may give you clues to what the answer may be.
- ✓ If you can think of more than one answer for a question, ask the instructor what to do.
- ✓ Read the question carefully and make sure that you answer everything that it asks for. Some short answer questions have multiple parts.

Essay Test Taking Tips

- ✓ Read the directions carefully. Pay close attention to whether you are supposed to answer all the essays or only a specified amount (i.e. "Answer 2 out of the 3 questions").
- ✓ Make sure that you understand what the question is asking you. If you are not, ask your instructor.
- ✓ Make sure that you write down everything that is asked of you and more. The more details and facts that you write down, the higher your grade is going to be.
- ✓ Budget your time, do not spend the entire test time on one essay.
- ✓ If the question is asking for facts, do not give your personal opinion on the topic.
- ✓ When writing your essay, try to be as neat as possible, neater papers usually receive higher marks.
- ✓ Make an outline before writing your essay. This way your essay will be more organized and fluid. If you happen to run out of time, most instructors will give you partial credit for the ideas that you have outlined.
- ✓ Do not write long introductions and conclusions, the bulk of your time should be spent on answering the question(s) asked.
- ✓ Focus on one main idea per paragraph.
- ✓ If you have time left at the end, proofread your work and correct any errors.
- ✓ Budget your time. If you have an hour to write 3 essays, spend no more than 20 minutes on each essay. If you have time left over, go back and finish any incomplete essays.
- ✓ If you are not sure about an exact date or number, use approximations i.e. "Approximately 5000" or "In the late 17th century."
- ✓ If you make a mistake, simply draw a line through it, it is much neater and quicker than erasing it.