



## Test Taking Tips for Multiple Choice Tests

**Multiple-Choice Items**—What are some strategies to do better on Multiple-Choice tests?

Multiple-choice items are the most common test format students take! As a result, it's important to learn how to take these tests successfully. The following hints can help you do your best.

1. **Read every answer choice.** Read every choice before you mark your answer. Even if you're sure that choice (a) is correct, read all the way to the last choice. You may find that another answer is even **better** than your original choice.
2. **Look for clues in the sentence.** Often the sentence contains clues that help you figure out the answer.
3. **Use process of elimination.** Start by crossing off any choices that are silly. Then look more closely when reading the remaining choices and determine which answers the question.
4. **Look for key words.** Multiple-choice questions that contain the words not, but, and except are asking you to find the opposite. These are tricky questions since three choices are true and you're asked to find the choice that is not true.
5. **Predict the answer.** As you read the question, think about what the answer should be. Then try to find that answer.
6. **Watch the 'all of the above' choice.** For the answer to be 'all of the above', every part of every choice has to be correct.
7. **Look for choices that are opposites.** If two choices are opposites, chances are one of them is correct.
8. **Use grammar clues.** All multiple-choice questions follow the rules of grammar. First, choose the answer that makes the most sense to you. Then, plug the answer into the rest of the question to see if it is grammatically correct.
9. **Get a plan.** Work from start to finish, answering each question. If you can't answer a question, put a check mark next to it. If you have time, go back and answer these questions. OR, answer the easiest questions first. Then go back and answer the harder questions.
10. **Work steadily.** Don't spend too much time on any one question. Try to answer as many questions as you can. This increases your chance of earning a better grade.
11. **Make sure your bubbles are dark enough!** If you skipped some questions, be extra careful that the numbers correspond. Make sure that you erase all stray marks.

12. **Guess!** If there is a penalty for wrong answers, guess only if you can eliminate some of the answers. For every answer you eliminate, you increase your odds of guessing correctly.

13. **And above all, use common sense when doing a multiple-choice test!**