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# Multiple Choices

## How to pick the right answer

**S**weaty palms, nervousness, despair. These symptoms often come as a result of some dreaded four-lettered words — test, exam, quiz.

In certain cases, the pressure of test taking causes a rise in adrenaline, which increases student performance and results in higher scores on assessments.

For other students, the intimidation of tests results in lower scores that are not accurate reflections of their intellect. Calming down, taking a deep breath and regaining your confidence exhibit the first steps toward successful test-taking.

There are different types of questions that appear on tests and quizzes. The most popular methods of response include multiple choice, short answer, matching and essay. Regardless of the question type, students need to study and prepare adequately for all assessments if they want to do well. Read questions carefully, and answer exactly what is being asked.

Multiple choice questions are easy for some students while challenging for others. The easy part is that the answers are provided. The difficulty is choosing the correct one. When answering multiple choice questions, attempt to come up with the



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answer and see if that is one of the options. All the choices should be read before making a decision. Students also need to beware of the wrong answer that seems right — commonly referred to as the

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“trick question.” Test creators know the mistakes students make and the answers that arise from such errors. It is easy to be tricked by the wrong answer.

A frequent question students ask is whether or not to guess. If choices can be eliminated and narrowed down to two possibilities, there is a 50 percent chance of guessing correctly.

Taking an educational guess also provides an opportunity to be correct. Leaving an answer blank does not allow for such chances to occur. Remember, tests are not “Who Wants to be a Mil-

lionaire?” There are no lifelines, so it’s always best to study appropriately first.

Being thorough is important when responding to test questions requiring short answers. There are usually several questions being asked within one inquiry. Points are often lost when portions are ignored or left out. Paraphrasing the question provides more sustenance when the actual answer is unknown.

Then there’s the B.S. factor — if you can’t dazzle them with brilliance, baffle them with B.S. Presenting the correct logical reasoning can earn a student points on short answer tests. However, if stu-

dent’s chance of scoring well.

Students who do well with essay questions are usually strong writers who dislike multiple choice questions. To find success on tests that require essay answers, students should use their knowledge of sentence structure within a paragraph. The first sentence is the topic sentence, or thesis, that states the subject of the paragraph. The middle sentences provide explanation and support for the point being made. The last sentence concludes the idea of the current paragraph, and introduces the concept of the next one, unless it’s the last division of thought.

Most importantly, make sure the response answers what is being asked.

Double-checking and reviewing answers allows students to catch mistakes and careless errors. Beware of second guessing if uncertainty arises. Trust your gut. First instincts are usually correct.

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