



Multiple Test Taking Strategies

There are multiple types of tests given by every instructor. Understanding the best way to study for each exam type will help you be more successful in the long run. Review these notes often, before each exam.

MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAM

A. Preparation

1. Purposeful notes. Review several times before test.
2. Well-reviewed texts. Review several times before t
3. Active daily learning.

B. Keys

1. Look for clues. Question those choices that use absolute words (always, never, only). Those choices are often incorrect.
2. Read carefully for terms like not, except and but which may come before the choices.
3. Look for best answer. Try to eliminate those answers that are clearly wrong. Usually at least one answer is far-fetched, another unlikely and another maybe. You can often reduce your choices to two.

TRUE/FALSE EXAM

A. Preparation

1. True/false questions contain two choices rather than four or five.
2. Chance of selecting correct answer is better.
3. Focus is on understanding detail rather than mastery of general concepts.

B. Helpful Hints

1. Be sure every part of question is correct. To be true, every detail must be true.
2. Watch to see how qualifiers are used. Words like always, never and only are usually false.
3. Conversely, less definite terms like often and frequently usually suggest that the statement is true.

That is what learning is. You suddenly understand something you've understood all your life, but in a new way.

-- Doris Lessing

MATCHING EXAMS

A. Preparation

1. Hardest to answer by guessing. You really need to know the material.
 2. Often match questions test your knowledge of definitions as well as names and events.
 - For example, one column may have names and another column have definitions descriptions.
- or

B. How to

1. Before answering questions, review all of the terms and descriptions.
2. Look for patterns to emerge.
 - Terms/descriptions
3. Match up those terms you are sure of first.
4. As you answer each questions, cross out both the term and description you have used.
 - This will help you focus on the remaining parts.

Helps

A. Keep your instructor informed.

1. Contact your instructor with information on conditions that affect your attendance.
 - Medical, personal, emergency, etc.
 - Know where to call before the exam, if you might have a conflict.
 - Contact instructor immediately if emergency occurs.

B. Does honesty pay? Does anyone get hurt if someone cheats?

1. Dishonesty:
 - Hurts personal growth.
 - Skews the grades.
 - Devalues college degree.
 - Harms your reputation.
 - Affects your ability to land and/or hold a job.