



15 Test Taking Strategies Every Test Taker Should Know



Test Taking Strategy #1-

Get ready before testing



• Avoid the morning rush. Set out clothes the night before. Get to school a few minutes earlier than you usually do.

• Get plenty of rest the night before each testing day

You need 8-10 hours of sleep, so go to bed by 10pm.

• Eat a good nutritious breakfast the morning of each testing day

(Milk w/cereal, eggs, fruits; no *Hot Cheetos* and candy.)



Can You Follow Directions?

Get Out a Sheet of Paper and Take This Test.

CAN YOU FOLLOW DIRECTIONS?

- This is a timed test--you have 3 minutes only!
- 1. Read everything carefully before doing anything.
- 2. Put your name in the upper right-hand corner of this paper.
- 3. Loudly call out your first name.
- 4. Circle your name.
- 5. If you have followed directions carefully to this point, call out "I have."
- 6. Draw five small squares in the upper left-hand corner.
- 7. Put an "X" in each square.
- 8. In your normal speaking voice, count from ten to one backwards.
- 9. Now that you have finished reading everything carefully, do only sentences one and two.

Test Taking Strategy # 2

LISTEN

Always listen to the directions given by teacher.

READ

• Read the directions written on the test.

ASK

• Read the question and ALL answer choices before marking anything.

Follow Directions!

Test Taking Strategy #3

Use your time wisely!

1. Don't spend too much time on any one question.



2. It is important to answer every question even if you are not sure of the answer.

5. Answer the easiest questions first, but be sure to go back to those questions you skipped.

4. Save time at the end to review your test and make sure you haven't left out any answers.

3. Use all your time! There are no extra points for finishing early.

PACE YOURSELF

GED TEST TIMES

Math: 90 minutes.

Reasoning Through Language Arts: 35 minutes.

Social Studies: 90 minutes.

Science: 90 minutes.



Hiset Times

-Language Arts: 65 minutes (Reading) 120 (writing)

- Math: 90 minutes

- Science: 80 minutes

- Social Studies: 70 Minutes

REMEMBER TO DO THE EASIEST PROBLEMS FIRST

AND THEN BE SURE AND GO BACK!

Test Taking Strategy # 4

If you can't figure out which answer is correct, try to **eliminate (get rid of) the answers that you know are wrong.**

Eliminate obviously wrong answer choices

Eliminate choices that are partly correct

Eliminate items that are correct but don't answer the question

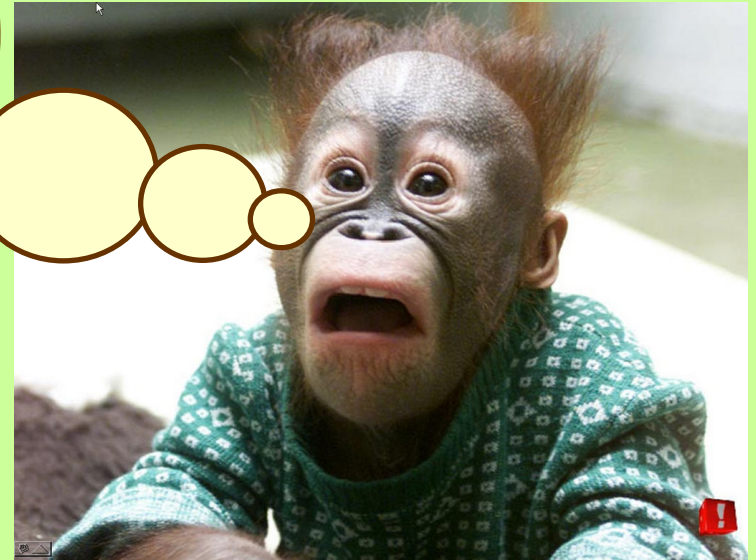


Elimination

Test Taking Strategy # 5

A random guess gives you a **25%** chance of getting the right answer. An educated guess gives you chance of answering correctly **up to 75%**.

Educated guessing means **using everything you know to attempt to answer the question.**



Educated Guess



Test Taking Strategy

6

ANSWERS WITH THE
FOLLOWING WORDS ARE
USUALLY WRONG/FALSE.



ALL ALWAYS
MUST NONE
NEVER EVERY
ENTIRELY BEST
WORST ONLY
EVERYONE

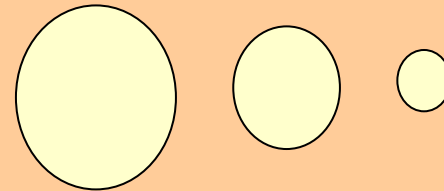
ABSOLUTE WORDS



Test Taking Strategy #7

ANSWERS WITH THE
FOLLOWING WORDS
ARE USUALLY
CORRECT/TRUE

SOME
SOMETIMES
GENERALLY
USUALLY
FREQUENTLY
PROBABLY
MOST FEW
MANY OFTEN
SELDOM



GENERAL WORDS



Test Taking Strategy # 8

WHEN THE ANSWER IS NOT CLEAR,
LOOK FOR CLUES (**CONTEXT,**
TENSE, WORD TYPE, GRAMMAR)
IN THE QUESTION AND THE
ANSWER CHOICES

The context of a word includes all the words and sentences that surround it and the situation in which the word is used.



LOOK FOR CLUES



Test Taking Strategy # 8 continue...

Clue words in test questions:

Who? Person **What?** Thing
Where? Place **When?** Time **Why?**
Reason **Which?** Choice
How? A way something is done
How many ? Number



LOOK FOR CLUES

Example

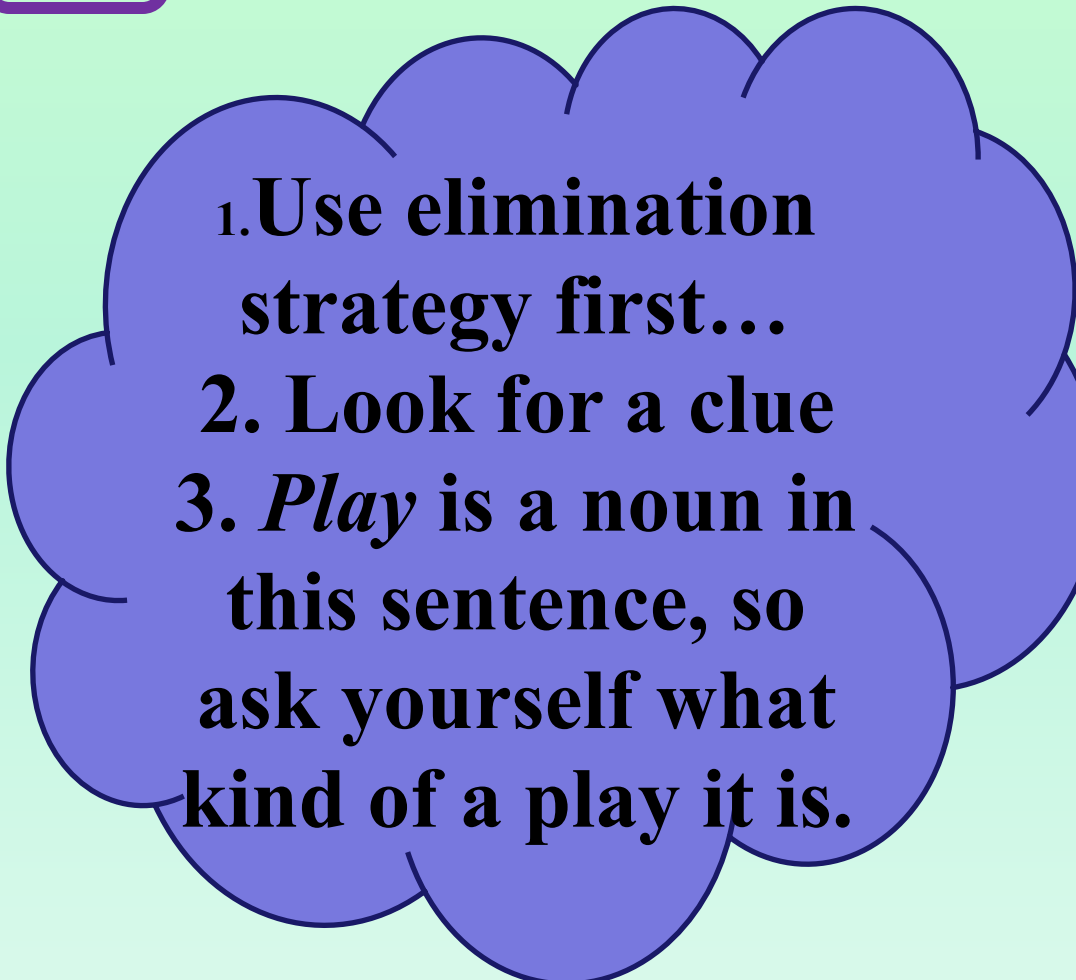
Our class will see a **play**, _____ ends this week.

~~a. Who~~

~~b. What~~

c. Which

~~d. When~~

- 
1. Use elimination strategy first...
 2. Look for a clue
 3. *Play* is a noun in this sentence, so ask yourself what kind of a play it is.

Test Taking Strategy # 9

The effect of negatives is to make the sentence the **opposite** of what it would be without the negative.

Simplify the question by getting rid of **double** negatives.

Negatives:
Not None No one
Hardly Scarcely
Prefixes such as
Un- Non- Dis- In-

Simplify this statement:
Most people are
not unafraid of snakes.
Most people are
afraid of snakes.

NEGATIVES & DOUBLE NEGATIVES

Example

Mrs. Smith dislikes when students are being rude to their teachers.

Without changing the meaning of the sentence, which words can best be used to replace the underlined part?

~~A~~ Enjoys

~~B~~ Tolerates

~~C~~ Punishes

D. Does not like

Test Taking Strategy # 10

In Math, **ESTIMATING** is an approximate answer obtained by rounding the numbers **BEFORE** you add, subtract, multiply, or divide.

Always ask yourself: “Is the answer reasonable?”

For example:

What is $325 + 917 + 796$?

A. 56 B. 2038 C. 1038 D. 10,564

Estimate

Examples

What value of **N** makes the equation true?

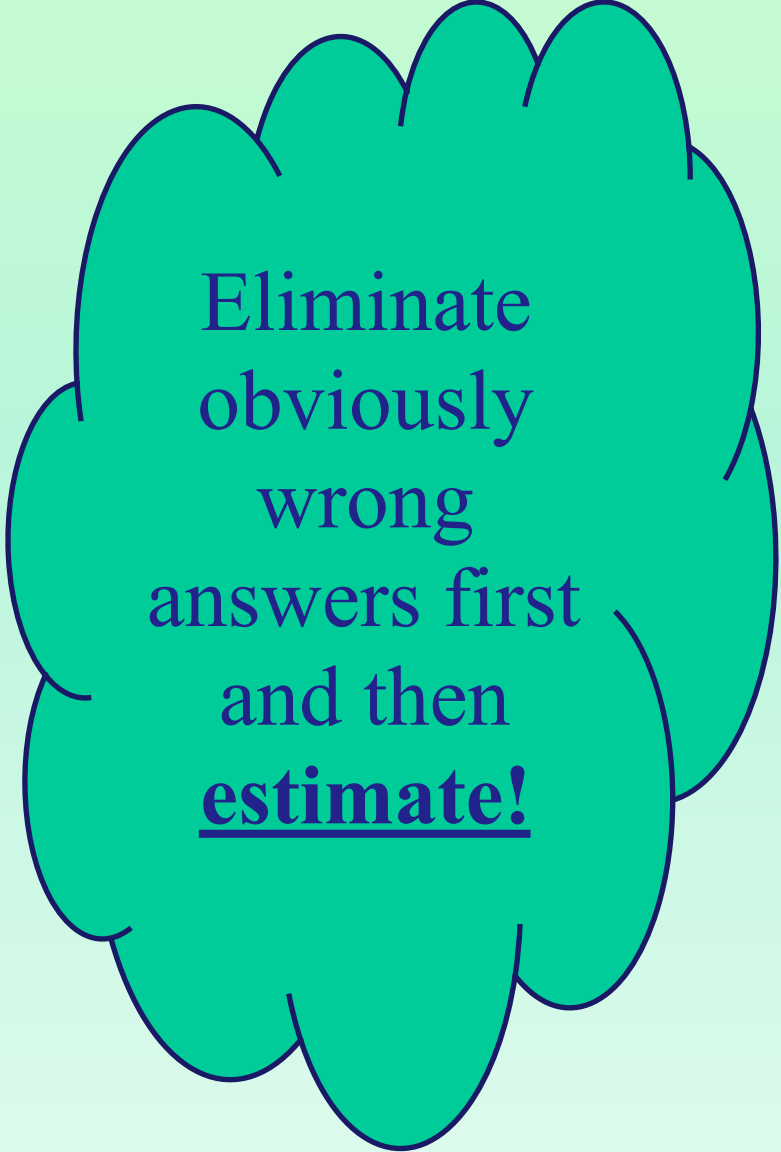
$$N - 19 = 33$$

~~A~~ 245

~~B~~ 42

~~C~~ 14

D. 52



Eliminate
obviously
wrong
answers first
and then
estimate!

Example

An airplane flew 2905 miles in 5 hours. What was the speed of the plane?

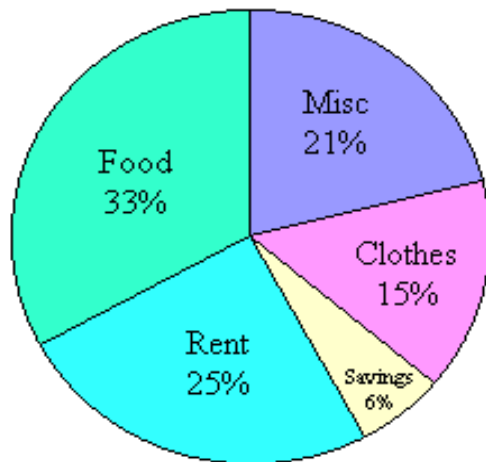
- A. 12 miles per hour
- B. 2324 miles per hour
- C. 581 miles per hour
- D. 481 miles per hour



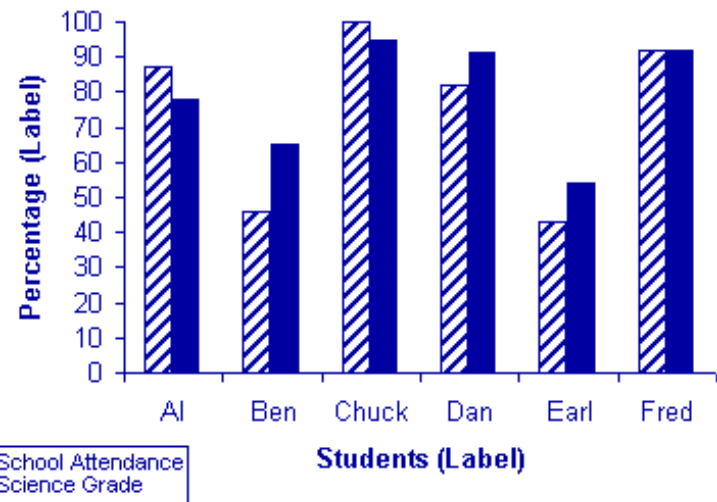
Test Taking Strategy # 11

1. Read all the titles, labels, and other given information
2. Check the units of measurement
3. Look for a pattern, trend, or comparison in the graph or table

Milton Family's Budget (Title)



School Attendance and Science Grades (Title)



Questions with graphs, charts, and tables,

Test Taking Strategy # 12

1. Read the title of the map
2. Check the map key(legend)
3. Look at the map scale (if you need to find a distance)
4. Re-read the question again



Questions with maps

Other Math Tips

- Use Scratch Paper.
- Double Check To Make Sure You've copied the problem correctly.
- Line Up Place Values (thousands, hundreds, tens, ones) Neatly To Avoid Careless Mistakes.

- Pace Yourself.

MOVE ON AND

GO BACK!

$$\begin{array}{r} 343 \\ \times 423 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Test Taking Strategy # 13

- Answers about where and when the story takes place are found at the beginning.
- Answers about a problem of the story are usually found in the middle.
- Answers about how the problem was resolved are usually found at the end.



Reading a story

When Reading a Passage Remember To:

READ THE QUESTIONS FIRST to
*determine what you are looking for as
you read the selection.*



Test Taking Strategy # 14

What's the Big Idea?

- Events and characters that make up the story
- The purpose of the story
- The point the author is trying to make

**Tip: Look for the Big idea
in the first two
paragraphs of the story!**

Finding the BIG IDEA

KNOW THE MEANING

***Trace-outline, list in steps, or follow the path**

***Analyze-break into parts, tell about the parts**

***Infer-read between the lines, what is the hidden meaning**

***Evaluate-judge it, tell the good and the bad**

*Formulate-create, put together

*Describe-tell about, paint a picture with words

*Support-back it up or prove it with details

*Explain-teach me or show me the steps

***Summarize-tell the main idea, tell the beginning, middle, and end**

***Compare-tell the all the ways they are the same**

***Contrast-tell all the ways that they are different**

***Predict-What will happen next?**

Final Tip Reminders

- ☑ If the test requires you to read passages and then answer questions about what you read,

Read the questions first.

- ☑ Line up place value correctly on your scratch paper (thousands, hundreds, tens, ones).

$$\begin{array}{r} 343 \\ \times 423 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

- ☑ **Remember:** Never leave any question on a test blank.

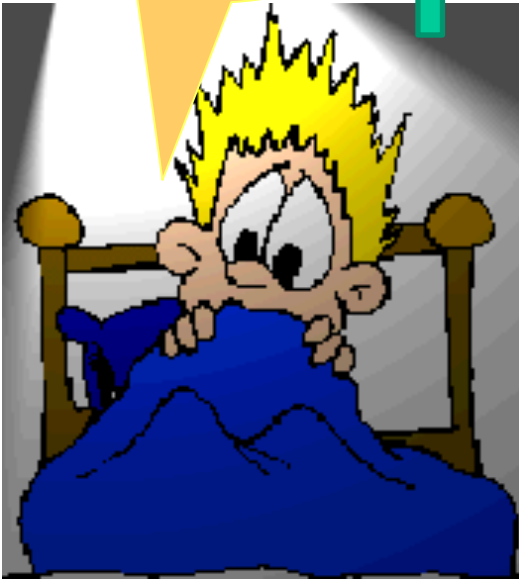
When You Are Done ...

- ✓ If you finish early, check to make sure you have answered all questions.
- ✓ Once you have finished, please remain quiet as others will still be working on the test.

Remember...



I am scared of the test monster!!!!



Remember the strategies! They will help you to feel confident.

- Think positively about doing your best!
- Take a deep breath to relax.
- Answer **EVERY** question.
- Make intelligent educated guesses.
- Think about one item at a time.
- DO YOUR BEST!**



Follow these tips to reduce your anxiety!

Reduce Your Test Anxiety With Practice



- Confidence comes from practice and becoming familiar with the format.**
- USATestprep will give you the practice you need to help you stay calm and do your best.**



**By Using The Test Taking Strategies
You Have Learned Today, and With
Practice, You Can Improve Your Test
Taking Skills and Test Scores.**

YOU CAN DO THIS!



**YOU
CAN
DO
THIS.**

Sources:

“Preparing Middle School Students for High Stakes Tests,” Tara Musslewhite, Atascocita Middle School, Humble, Texas

“15 Strategies Every Test Taker Should Have,” Vista Middle School, Van Nuys, CA