

# TESTING STRATEGIES

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## MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Work quickly
2. Give answer that teacher wants
3. Eliminate ridiculous choices
4. Look for clue words or number:
  - Watch out for absolutes (always, never etc.)
  - Look for grammatical clues (plural or singular verbs, etc.)
  - Look for familiar phrases out of text
  - Look for degrees of correctness (especially math: rule out ridiculous answers)
5. Guess - choose closest answer
  - Rule out 2 or 3 answers
  - Watch for patterns
6. DO change answers (not over & over)
  - Check "flagged" (skipped) questions
  - Check for missing answers
7. Never give up!

## TRUE/FALSE

1. Read carefully
2. Watch for clue words:
  - Generally false: all, only, always, because
  - Generally true: none, generally, usually
3. Don't quibble over approximate answer
4. Guess (usually more trues)
5. DON'T change answers (1st often right)

## MATCHING

1. Read directions carefully
  - Use answer only once? more?
  - Are the columns uneven?
2. Find which column has the longest phrases - work down that one & re-read shorter one
3. Do easy matches first

## VERBAL ANALOGIES

1. Practice when studying
2. Give exact answer
3. Turn into sentences to make sense
4. Find a word for the possible relationship:
  - purpose                      sequence
  - cause/effect                place
  - part/whole                  size
  - part/part                     grammatical
  - action/object                numerical
  - word meaning               characteristic
  - opposite word meaning
5. Attack tough problems systematically
6. Make educated guesses

## SHORT ANSWER/FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. Look for clues
2. Don't search for hidden meaning
3. Watch length of blanks
4. Over answer
5. Make educated guesses

## VOCABULARY

1. Watch for "attractive distractors:"
  - Look alike words
  - same etymology stems
  - grammar misused
2. Looks familiar, but don't know it? - think and try to jog memory; skip and come back to it
3. Make educated guesses
  - Association
  - Elimination of wrong parts of speech
4. If you know a second language, use it!

## NUMBER PROBLEMS

1. Work systematically
  - Write carefully
  - Write in straight columns
  - Copy accurately
  - Watch for units of measure
2. Organize your work
  - Given numbers
  - What you're supposed to find
  - All formulas you'll need, in order
3. Use graphics (draw a picture of it)
4. Estimate
5. Study graphs carefully

## READING COMPREHENSION

1. Read questions first, then the passage
2. Don't skip around while reading
3. Locate easiest questions first
4. Don't add any facts
5. Forget your own conclusion
6. Check your answers

## ESSAY

1. Essay is usually more than a paragraph
2. Budget your time
3. Outline or map or brainstorm in phrases
4. Write a topic sentence
5. Write "long": details, specifics, examples
6. Write an ending
7. Write a title or label
8. Check your work for content, organization, mechanics
9. Ran out of time?? Say so on paper and finish with an outline