

ACHIEVEMENT LEARNING STRATEGIES

GUIDELINES FOR TAKING MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAMS

First read the question thoroughly and try to recall the answer before looking over the choices. You may need to read the question several times and paraphrase the question or put it in your own words to ensure you understand the question.

↪ Two Types of Multiple Choice Questions

- Basic definition - You are looking for the second part of the definition from the choices.
- Interpretation of the concept learned. Also known as the "trick" question.

↪ Guidelines for Eliminating and Making Choices

Rule 1 - Eliminate choices containing 100% words. They do not allow for exceptions

- Examples: always, no, never, everywhere
- Also forms of the verb "to be"
- Words such as sometimes, probably, and may are weaker words and usually are true because they allow for exceptions.

Rule 2 - Eliminate choices that do not match the question being asked. Choose the answer that directly answers the question.

Rule 3 - Eliminate silly wording suggesting a stereotype. Choose choices that make sense based on logical reasoning and your background knowledge.

Rule 4 - "All of the above" answers are often correct. If you know that two or more answers are correct, then "all of the above" is a strong possibility.

Rule 5 - If you are not sure of a number answer, toss out the high and low numbers and consider the middle range numbers

Rule 6 - If you have no idea of the answer

- Check for "look alike" choices to find what you consider the best answer among them.
- Check for the choice with the most information. The choice with the most inclusive or longest statement often is true, simply because it takes more words to make a true statement.

↪ Change your answers cautiously. Your first impulse may be best.

Adapted from Walter Pauk's *How to Study In College* and Kathleen D. Thayer, Purdue University, *Guidelines for Taking a Multiple Choice Exam*

If you have any questions regarding test taking or other academic success subjects, contact me for an appointment! Leslye Evans-Lane, CHSS Achievement Coach, at 224-3595 or the main office 224-3588 or by email at levanslane@cnm.edu

