

Test-Taking Strategies



Having a strategy for taking tests will boost your confidence. Use this method to prepare for a test in any subject. Why? Because it works!

S.T.A.R. is an acronym that offers a process to use each time you take a test. Using this step-by-step approach improves accuracy of answers and understanding of test directions.

Survey - **S**kim through the test and notice the number and types of questions. Read directions carefully and completely. Underline key words- those words that tell you what you must do.

Time - **F**ind **o**ut how much time you have to complete the test. Determine how many minutes you can spend on each part. Try to plan some time to check over the test before handing it in.

Answer - **A**nswer the easy questions first. Put a checkmark next to the difficult questions and return to those later. Once you have “knocked off” the easy ones, you can focus and concentrate on the more difficult ones. Be sure to answer every question- leave no blanks.

Review - **G**o **o**ver the test to be sure you have answered all questions. Sometimes, the easier questions will give you clues that help with the harder ones. Have you carefully followed directions?

Objective Tests

One advantage of objective tests is that clues to the answer are almost always present within the question. For this reason, it never makes sense to leave an answer blank. ALWAYS write in an answer, even if you must guess; doing this will increase your chances for a correct answer.

True/False Tests

- ✓ **A**nswer every question; even if you guessing, you have a 50/50 chance of getting it right.
- ✓ Your first response is usually best.