



Student Success Program South Campus

Strategies for Answering True/ False Questions

True-false tests ask if a statement is true or not. True—false questions are some of the most tricky questions ever developed. Some students like them, some hate them. There is a 50/50 chance of getting the correct answer, but you can use the following strategies to increase your odds on true—false tests.

- Read the statement carefully.
- Pay attention to special words that may indicate that the statement is true – words such as *some, few, many, often*, and so on.
- Pay attention to special words that *may* indicate that the statement is false – words such as *never, all, every, only*, and so on.
- If any part of a statement is false, then the entire statement is considered false.
- Answer every question, if there is no penalty for guessing.
- When in doubt, choose *true*.
- Never try to fake the answer by making the T look like it could be either T or F.
- Watch for key words in each statement, for example, negatives.
- Read each statement for double negatives, such as *not untruthful*.

Strategies for Answering Multiple-Choice Questions

When answering multiple-choice test questions, you must answer a question or complete a statement by selecting the correct answer from two, three, four, or five possible answer choices. Some strategies for increasing your success in answering multiple-choice questions are:

- Carefully read the statements and try to answer the question before you read the answer choices.
- Lightly cross out answers that you feel or know are incorrect.
- Read all the options before making your decision.
- Answer each question, if there is no penalty for guessing.
- Look for similar answers; one of them is usually the correct response.
- Recognize that answers containing extreme modifiers, such as *always, every, and never*, are usually wrong.

- Read *all* the options before selecting your answer, even if you know that A is the correct response; read them *all*.
- Recognize that when the answers are all numbers, the highest and lowest numbers are usually incorrect.
- Recognize that a joke is usually wrong.
- Understand that the most inclusive answer is often correct.
- Understand that the longest answer is often correct.
- If you cannot answer a question, move on to the next one and continue through the test; another question may trigger the answer you missed.

Strategies for Short-Answer Questions

Short-answer questions, also called fill-in-the-blanks, ask you to supply the answer yourself, not to select it from a list. Although short answer sounds easy, these questions are often very difficult. Short-answer questions require you to draw from your long-term memory. The following hints can help you answer this type of question successfully.

- Read each question and be sure that you know what is being asked.
- Be brief in your response.
- Give the same number of answers as there are blanks, for example, _____ and _____ would require *two* answers.
- Never assume that the length of the blank has anything to do with the length of the answer.
- Remember that your initial response is usually correct.
- Pay close attention to the word immediately preceding the blank; if the word is *an*, give a response that begins with a vowel (a,e,i,o,u).
- Look at the key words in the sentence that may trigger a response.

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