

A composite image with a purple and pink background. On the left is a stack of white papers. On the right is a close-up of a clock face.

Testing, Testing 1 2 3

A composite image with a green and yellow background. On the left is a stack of white papers. On the right is a close-up of a clock face.

Strategies for Taking Standardized Tests

'Twas the Night Before Testing

- Go to bed on time.
- Put a few #2 pencils with erasers in your backpack.
- Solve family/friend problems before the testing date.
- Talk to your parents about any concerns that you might have about the test.



The Morning of Testing

- Start your day as you always do.
- Eat a good breakfast.
- Think of what you will do to relax after you get home from school.
- Think Positive!



Multiple Choice Questions

- If you do not understand the directions, ask for help.
- Read the question and all answer choices before marking anything.



Pace Yourself

- Don't spend too much time on any one question. Do your best and then move on.
- Answer the easiest questions first, but be sure to go back to those questions you skipped.



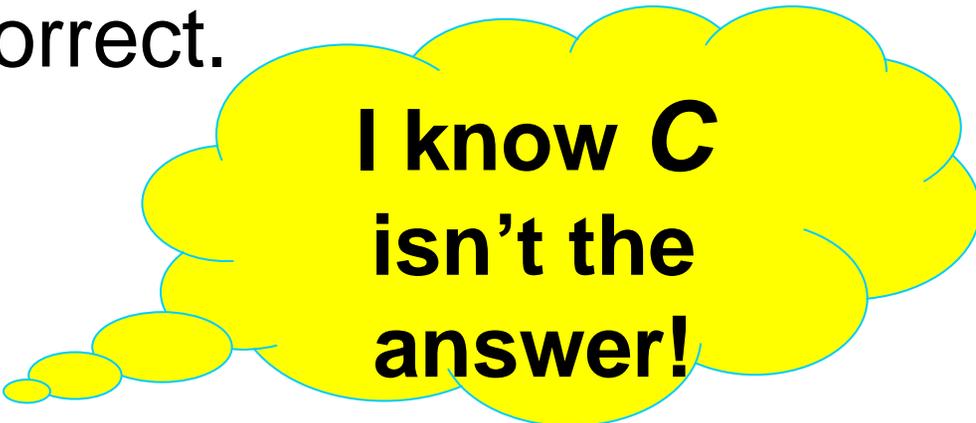
Multiple Choice Questions

- Do not change your answers unless you are very uncertain about your first answer choice.
- Try to answer every question. Make the most intelligent guess you can.

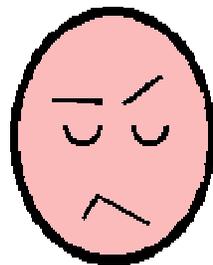


The Process of Elimination

- After you have been through all of the questions once, go back and find questions you have some knowledge about and eliminate choices that you know are incorrect.

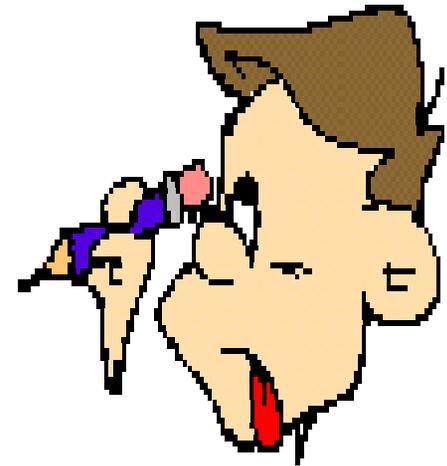


**I know C
isn't the
answer!**



The Process of Elimination

- If you can eliminate two wrong answers, your chance of choosing the right answer is greater.



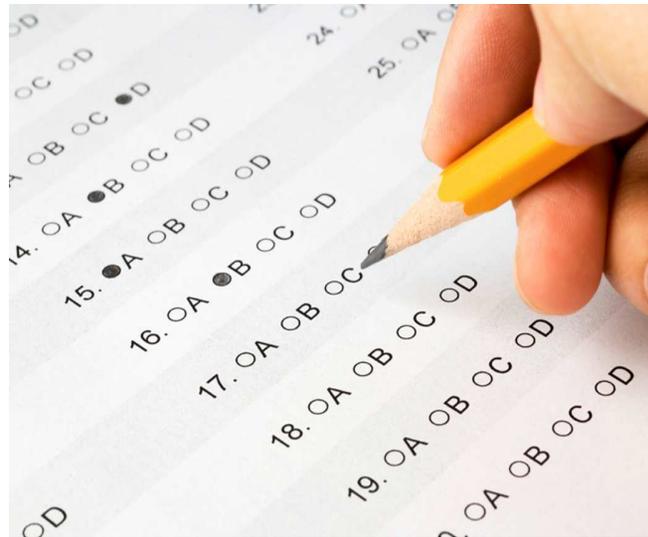
Answering Questions

- Don't guess blindly, but if you have time to think about the best answer choice, make it!



Skip, Return, Check

- If you finish early, check to make sure you have answered all questions.



Key Words

- Find **key words** or **phrases** in the question that will help you choose the correct answer.



Are We Communicating?

- Make sure you understand what the question is asking.
- Be sure you are responding to the question that is being asked.



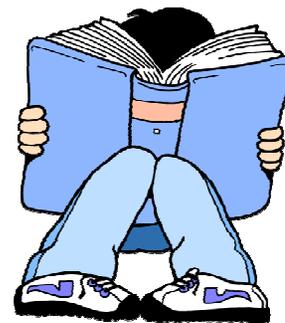
Reading Passages

- If the test requires you to read passages and then answer questions about what you read, **read the questions first**.
- By doing this, you will know what you are looking for as you read. This also helps you go faster on the test.



Reading Passages

- When there are several questions about a reading passage or chart, look for **clues** in other questions that will help you with those items about which you are unsure.



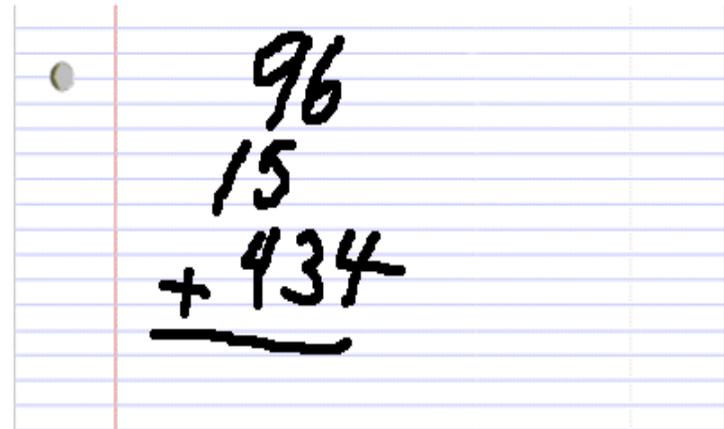
Math Computation

- When using scratch paper on a math test, double check to make sure that you have copied the problem correctly from the test booklet!



Math Computation

- Line up place value correctly on your scratch paper (thousands, hundreds, tens, ones) or the answer will be incorrect.



A photograph of a piece of lined paper with a vertical red margin line on the left. Handwritten in black ink is the addition problem:

$$\begin{array}{r} 96 \\ 15 \\ + 434 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Math Computation

- If your answer does not match one of the choices, re-read the problem, re-copy the numbers, and try solving it again.



A Matter of Time

- If any time remains, spend it on those questions about which you know nothing or almost nothing.
- As you go back through, do not change your answers.
- **Remember: Your first guess is usually right.**

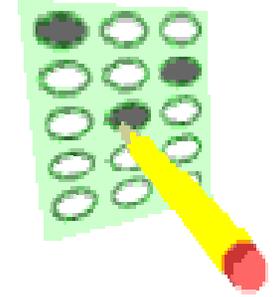


It's About Time

- Don't spend too much time re-writing or obsessing about neatness.
- Don't worry if you run out of time.



Final Tips



- Fill in bubbles fully, write neatly, and erase stray marks.
- Double check the test number in your test booklet against the answer sheet every few questions to be sure you haven't gotten on the wrong number.



The Death Grip

- If your arm tires during testing, it is probably due to the grip that you have on your pencil.
- Relax the grip and give those muscles a break.
- Do not do arm exercises during testing as this disturbs others.





Thank you, Mr. Know-it-all!

- Remember **it's OK not to know everything**—unlike class tests, these tests will have some questions designed to challenge the limits of your knowledge at a grade level above your current grade.

For Teachers

- **Test the Best!** Lesson plans and activities to prepare students for standardized tests.

**GOOD
LUCK**

