



Test Taking Strategies(June)

- It's normal to feel anxious – think positive thoughts.
- Take deep breaths to relax before you begin. Concentrate on your breathing and nothing else for a few moments.
- Ask questions if you are not sure about anything BEFORE you begin your test. You don't want to stress out over something a teacher can easily answer for you.
- Look over the entire test before you jump in to assess the number and kinds of questions you will come across.
- Underline any key words or phrases in the directions of your test.
- Take your time – read each question carefully and reread it if necessary.
- When reading through the questions, highlight, circle or underline any important words or directions.
- If words are **bold** or *italicized*, pay close attention to them, and ask yourself what the question is asking.
- Mark your answers on your sheet carefully. If you change your answer, be sure that your final answer is considerably darker than the one you erased.
- Double check to ensure that you have answered all of the questions – did you miss one? This would result in all of the questions following the missed one incorrect!!!

Even though the following words are easy to understand, they are also easy to miss and can change the meaning of the question and/or answer significantly:

all	always	most likely	probably	best	not
difference	usually	except	most	unlikely	likely

Strategies for Multiple- Choice Questions

- Quickly skim the entire test – find out how many questions there are so you can budget your time.
- Read and reread each questions carefully.
- Underline key words and try to determine the answer on your own before looking at your choices.
- If there is a graphic, look at it, read the question, and then return to the graphic. Circle any important information on the graphic.
- Carefully read the choices. Read the question first and then each answer with it if you are unsure of the answer.
- When answering, first eliminate any choices that are clearly wrong or do not make sense. This will take away some distraction and make the question seem less difficult.

- Some questions will ask you to select the **BEST** answer. All of the answers will be correct to some degree, but one will be the “best”. Be sure to read all of your choices before selecting one!!! Other key words to look for are: The **main** idea of the poem... which of the following **most likely**..... Which answer **most strongly**....
- If you do not know the answer or the question doesn't make sense at all, it's better to guess than leave it blank – you have a 25% chance of getting it right if you try!!! Be sure to make note of the question so you can revisit it at the end of the test.
- Do not spend too much time on one question. Make a mark (*) beside a difficult question and come back to it. Another question further on in the test may give you a hint or clue as to the answer of a difficult one.
- Note any negatives, such as **no** or **not**, be sure that your choice fits the question.
- Before changing an answer, be sure you have a very good reason for doing so.
- Do not look for patterns on your answer sheet (and do not create them yourself!)

Test Preparation

Seven Days Before the Test:

1. Review important areas in which to gather info
 - a. Areas to be included on the test
 - b. Types of test items
 - c. General and specific test tips

Two to Six Days Before the Test

1. Review old homework assignments, quizzes and tests.
2. Rework problems on tests/quizzes to make sure you can still solve them.
3. Correct any errors made on tests or quizzes.
4. Review key concepts, processes, formulas and vocabulary.
5. Create summarized notes for yourself you can take with you to review when you have nothing else to do!
6. Create practice test questions for yourself and then answer them.

The Night Before the Test

1. Final review and gathering of material needed for the test before going to bed.
2. Get a good night's rest so you are alert and focused the following day.

The Day of the Test

1. Eat a good, nutritious breakfast. Your brain functions better when it is well fed.
2. Wake up a bit earlier to ensure that you have all necessary materials needed for your test (calculator, dictionary, something to read if you finish early...etc)
3. Think positive thoughts to relieve test anxiety and calm yourself.
4. Arrive at school early so you are not rushing. A stressful, rushed morning can set a hurried or anxious pace for the test.