

A Strategy for Multiple Choice Tests

Before you start the test:

Get a good night's sleep; your brain needs to rest.

Eat a good breakfast; your brain needs energy just like your muscles.

Relax; there is nothing to be nervous about.

During the test:

Having a plan will help you relax and think clearly, and it will help you do your best when you do not know the answer.

Here's a plan for Language Arts (and some Science) questions:

1. **Read** the passage and then read the question once. If you don't quite understand it, read it again.
2. **Predict** what you think the answer will be.
3. Read the answer choices and look for the answer you predicted. Make sure to read the other possibilities too. If your prediction is still the best, **select** it and move on.
4. **Eliminate** the answers that you are pretty sure are wrong. Make your educated guess from what is left and move on.

Here's a plan for Math (and some Science) questions:

1. **Read** the question until you understand what is being asked for.
2. **Plan** how you will solve the problem.
3. **Estimate** the answer.
4. **Work** out the problem on scratch paper or with the calculator if it's there. Select the answer and move on.
5. If the answer you want is not there, **check** your work.
6. **Eliminate** answers that look way too big or too small, or that have the wrong units, and make your educated guess from what is left.