

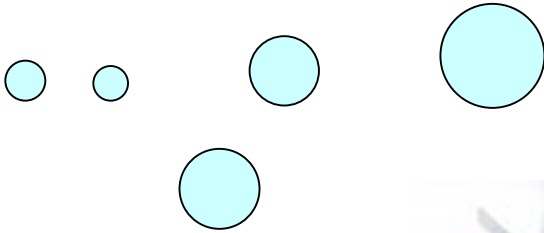


# 10 Test Taking Strategies Every Tester Should Know



# Test Taking Strategy #1-

## Get ready before testing



• **Avoid the morning rush.** Set out clothes the night before. Get to school a few minutes earlier than usual if you can.



• **Get 8 – 10 hours of rest the night before each testing day.** Go to bed by 10 pm.

• **Eat a nutritious breakfast each morning.** Choose foods like cereal with milk, eggs, and fruits. Not snacks or candy.



# **Can You Follow Directions?**

## **Let's See...**

**Get Out a Sheet of Paper and Take This Test.**

This is a timed test--you only have 3 minutes!

1. READ everything carefully before doing anything.
2. Put your name in the upper right-hand corner of this paper.
3. Loudly call out your first name.
4. Circle your name.
5. If you have carefully followed directions, call out "I have".
6. Draw five small squares in the upper left-hand corner.
7. Put an "X" in each square.
8. In your normal speaking voice, count from 10 to 1 backwards.
9. Now that you have finished reading everything carefully, do steps one and two.

# Test Taking Strategy #2

**LISTEN**

- Listen to the directions given by the teacher.

**READ**

- Read the directions written on the test.

**READ**

- Read the question and all answer choices.

**Follow Directions!**

# Test Taking Strategy #3

## Use your time wisely!

1. Don't spend too much time on any one question.

4. Warning! If you move too quickly or it appears that you are guessing, you will have to start over.



2. Answer every question even if you are not sure of the answer.

3. Pace yourself! There are no extra points for finishing early.

# PACE YOURSELF

SCANTRON®

Performance Series®

- **SCANTRON Performance Series Algebra 1 Test**
  - **50 - 55 questions**
  - **Two 40 minute periods**
  - **An average of about 1 minute and 30 seconds per question**



# Test Taking Strategy #4

If you can't figure out the correct answer, **eliminate** (get rid of) answers you know are wrong.

Eliminate obviously wrong answer choices

Eliminate choices that are partly correct

Eliminate items that are correct but don't answer the question



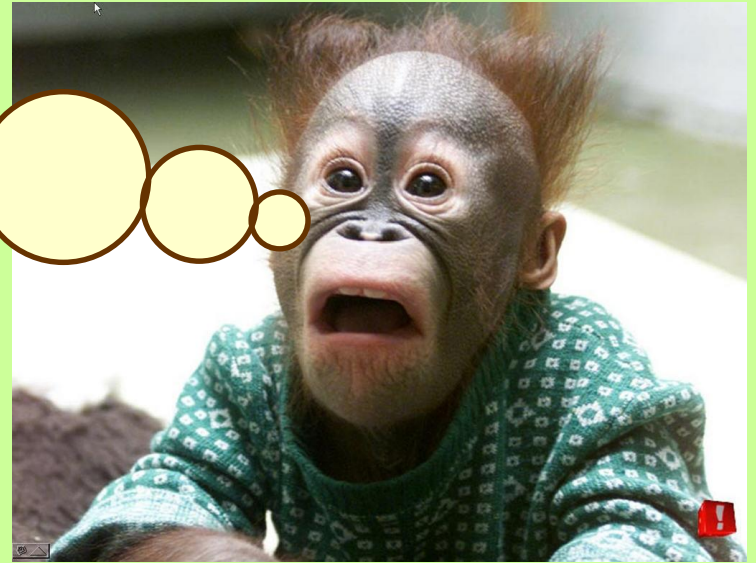
# Elimination



# Test Taking Strategy #5

A random guess gives you a **25%** chance of getting the right answer. An educated guess gives you up to a **75%** chance of answering correctly.

Educated guessing means **using everything you know to attempt to answer the question.**



# Educated Guess





# Test Taking Strategy #6

Try to **ESTIMATE!** Obtain an approximate answer by rounding the numbers **BEFORE** you add, subtract, multiply, or divide.

Always ask yourself: “Is the answer reasonable?”

**FOR EXAMPLE:**

What is  $325 + 917 + 796$ ?

A. 56    **B. 2,038**    C. 1,038    D. 10,564

$$\begin{array}{r} 300 \\ 900 \\ +800 \\ \hline 2000 \end{array}$$

# Estimate

# Example

What is the value of  $n$  that makes the equation true?

$$n - 19 = 33$$

~~A.~~ 245

~~B.~~ 42

~~C.~~ 14

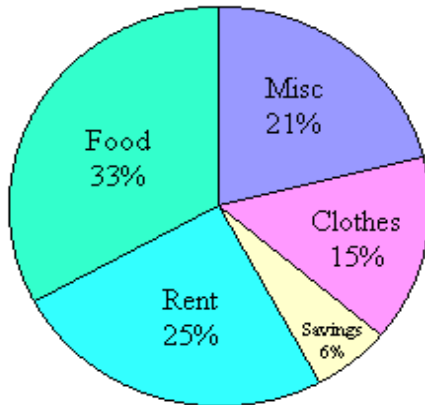
**D.** 52

Eliminate  
obviously  
wrong  
answers first  
and then  
estimate!

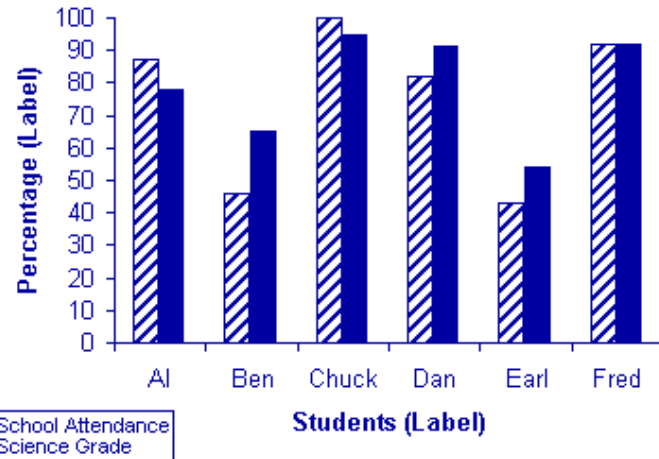
# Test Taking Strategy #7

1. Read all titles, labels and other given information.
2. What are the units of measurement?
3. Does the data follow a pattern or trend?

Milton Family's Budget (Title)



School Attendance and Science Grades (Title)



## ANALYZING Graphs, Charts and Tables

# Test Taking Strategy #8

## When Solving Word Problems Remember To...

- *READ the question first.*
- *READ all the answer choices.*
- *What information do you need to solve the problem? Ask yourself...*

HOW LONG?  
HOW MANY?  
HOW MUCH?  
HOW MUCH TIME?

# READING FOR MEANING

# Test Taking Strategy #9

***Read the question carefully.***

Are you finding the solution or finding the answer choice that is NOT correct?

***Pay attention to the details.***

- Write down numbers and key words.
- Ignore information you don't need.



**FINDING CLUES**

# Test Taking Strategy #10

Draw a picture.

Use trial and error.

Plug in answer choices.

Choose a strategy that works best for you!

Use a regroup method like the Distributive Property.

## FINDING A STRATEGY

# Watch for Common Math Mistakes

- Use order of operations (PEMDAS)

– **P**arentheses ( ) - work from the inside out!

– **E**xponents  $x^2$

– **M**ultiplication }  
– **D**ivision } from left to right

– **A**ddition }  
– **S**ubtraction } from left to right

$$7 - 2(5 - 1)$$

$$7 - 2(4)$$

$$7 - 8$$

$$-1$$

$$10(6x) \div 2(5)$$

$$60x \div 2(5)$$

$$30x(5)$$

$$150x$$

# Watch for Common Math Mistakes

- Distribute completely.

$$5x(2x^2 + 3x + 4) = 10x^3 + 15x^2 + 20x$$

- Always combine “like” terms.

$$\begin{array}{r} 4x^2 + 8x - (3x + 1) \\ 4x^2 + 8x + 0 \\ + 0 \quad - 3x - 1 \\ \hline 4x^2 + 5x - 1 \end{array}$$



# Watch for Common Math Mistakes

- Be careful of negatives inside and outside the parentheses.

$$-3^2 = -9 \text{ but } (-3)^2 = 9 \text{ and } 3^{-2} = \frac{1}{3^2} = \frac{1}{9}$$

- Use inverse operations to undo or reverse operations.

Addition  $\leftrightarrow$  Subtraction

Multiplication  $\leftrightarrow$  Division

$$x + 5 = 3$$

$$x + 5 - 5 = 3 - 5$$

$$x = -2$$

$$-6x = 30$$

$$\frac{-6x}{-6} = \frac{30}{-6}$$

$$x = -5$$

# Watch for Common Math Mistakes

- Change subtraction to addition by taking the opposite of every term after the “-” sign.

$$\begin{aligned}(3x - 2) - (7x - 6) \\ 3x - 2 - 7x + 6 \\ -4x + 4\end{aligned}$$

- Know your exponent rules.

$$\begin{aligned}x^3 \cdot x^4 &= x^{3+4} = x^7 \\ (x^3)^4 &= x^{3 \cdot 4} = x^{12} \\ \frac{x^3}{x^4} &= \frac{1}{x}\end{aligned}$$

# **Other Math Tips**

- **Use scratch paper.**
- **Take your time.**
- **Double check your work.**
- **Don't second guess yourself by changing the first answer unless you are 100% certain.**

**When You Are Done ...  
Please remain quiet.  
Others are still  
working on the test.**



# To Reduce Test Anxiety



**Remember your test strategies!  
They will help YOU to feel confident.**

- **Stay positive!**
- **Take a deep breath to relax.**
- **Answer EVERY question.**
- **Make intelligent educated guesses.**
- **Solve one problem at a time.**
- **DO YOUR BEST!**



**YOU  
CAN  
DO  
THIS.**