

TEST TAKING TIPS for STUDENTS

1. You do not have to answer all the questions correctly to pass. It is not expected that students answer every question correctly.
2. Attempt to answer ALL of the questions and DO NOT leave any blanks. There is no penalty for guessing, and students can get partial credit on the open-ended (constructed response) questions.
3. Use time wisely. If you get stuck on a question, make the best guess or write the number of the question on a scrap piece of paper and then go back to it after finishing that section of the test.
4. Get a solid good night's sleep before the test. Being well rested will sharpen the mind and aid your memory. Eat a good breakfast the morning of the test.
5. Try to make the morning of the test a pleasant one. Avoid stress.
6. Get to school on time the day of the test.
7. Listen carefully to the instructions from the teacher, and read the directions to each question carefully (especially the constructed response and written questions.) Be sure you understand exactly what you have to do for each part of the test.
8. Look for key words in test directions and questions such as: choose, describe, explain, compare, identify, similar, except, not, and but.
9. Read each question carefully and think before you answer. Be sure that you understand the question before you start to compare answer choices. Look at ALL answer choices and choose the best and most complete answer. If you're not sure which answer is correct, eliminate choices that you know are incorrect. Then focus on the remaining choices.
10. A word of caution about changing answers - usually your first choice is correct. If you have to change an answer be sure to erase completely.
11. Stay focused on the test, even if other students finish early. Don't get distracted.
12. For constructed response and written questions - be sure to write neatly and legibly - IF THE READER CAN NOT READ YOUR ANSWER YOU LOOSE! Many students lose points because they do not read the directions carefully for these kinds of questions. Watch out for questions that have three or more parts!