



Test Taking

Objective Tests

Objective tests are usually based on concepts or theories and include multiple choice, true/false, matching. In college, objective exams require high level critical reasoning and making fine discriminations to determine the best answer.

Objective Test Taking Tips

Multiple Choice Tips	<p>How do I eliminate distracters?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Try to figure out what the answer is NOT.• Eliminate grammatically incorrect distracters.• Watch for distracters that mean the same thing.• Use what you know to analyze and make decisions about information.• If a question confuses you, consider the stem and each distracter as a true-false question.• Read all choices before answering, sometimes they are looking for the BEST answer.• Cross out choices you know are incorrect
True/False Tips	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make sure a statement is completely true before answering true.• Watch for words such as always or never. These are usually false; but not always!• Watch for words such as seldom and usually. These are often true; but not always!• Use the rest of the test for information to help you answer.• If in doubt; go with your intuition.• Don't change an answer unless you're absolutely sure you should!
Matching Tips	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use the side with the longest responses as the stem on matching tests. Since you normally read from left to right, you may automatically use the left column as the stem questions. Thus, you spend time rereading the longer responses as you look for answers.• Try to determine the relationships between the columns on matching exams. Sometimes they focus more on dates, locations, events, people, causes, effects, and so forth. Identifying the relationships helps you focus your thoughts in an organized manner.
Additional Tips	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Watch for double negatives. Negative times negative equals positive. For example, consider the phrase not unimportant. Something that is not unimportant is important.• If you don't know an answer, skip it and go on.• When all else fails, guess. Never leave a question blank. Try to devise an answer in your own words. Then look for a matching response. If none exists, make an educated guess.• Review your exam before turning it in.

Adapted from Study Methods and Reading Techniques, Rhonda Atkinson and Debbie Longman, West Publishing.