

Ten Educated Guessing Strategies

Disclaimer: Learning the material and studying is *always* the best way to improve the likelihood of doing well on an exam. **These guessing strategies should only be used as a last resort for answering questions.** The University Learning Center does not guarantee that these strategies will improve your exam performance, nor do we accept responsibility for any use of these strategies during exams. **Please remember: *studying works best!***

- 1.) **Guess false if there is a 100 percent modifier** (e.g., Always begin by studying your favorite subject first. Attendance in college is required in every class.)
- 2.) **Guess true if there is an in-between modifier** (e.g., Reviewing notes from a previous paragraph can sometimes be used to help understand a difficult paragraph. In a sole proprietorship, the person who owns the business is usually the one who operates it.)
- 3.) **Guess false if there is a relationship clue** (e.g., Lack of motivation is the reason unsuccessful students avoid using time management. Cramming is not recommended because it used only eight of the Twelve Principles of Memory.)
- 4.) **Guess false if the statement is ridiculous, foolish, insulting, or has unfamiliar terms.**
- 5.) **Guess *true*, the wild-shot guess, if there are no other clues in a true-false question** (e.g., if there are no modifiers to use, and there is no relationship shown). Teachers usually prefer to write more true statements than false statements.
- 6.) **If there are numbers as options, eliminate the highest and the lowest;** guess one of the options that remain. (e.g., an average rate of thinking speeds is 800 words/min (eliminate the highest), 600 words/min, 400 words/min, 200 words/min (eliminate the lowest). Thus choose between 600 and 400 words/min choices.
- 7.) **If there are multiple-choice options that are almost identical (look alike), choose one of those two options.**
- 8.) **If one multiple-choice option is longer in length or more inclusive in content, choose it.**
- 9.) **If the last option is “all of the above” and this option is not used throughout the test, choose it.**
- 10.) **Guess *c*, the wild-shot guess, if there are no other clues in a multiple-choice question.**

*Adapted from: Wong, L. (2006). Essential Study Skills (5th Ed). Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.
For more information on note taking skills or other study strategies, contact the
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