

# Test Taking Strategies



# Video Clip



- ✓ Test-taking strategies so that you won't have an experience like this . . .

Video Clip: “I Don't Know Anything”



# General Strategies

for success on any kind of test

# PREPARE



Do NOT just:

- ✓ read from the textbook
- ✓ make long pages of notes

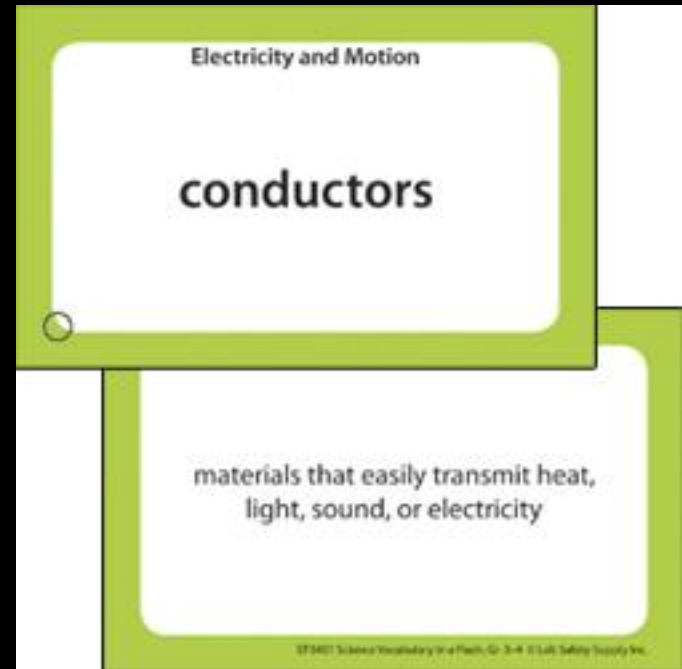


This is generally not an effective way to study.

# PREPARE



Use **flashcards**

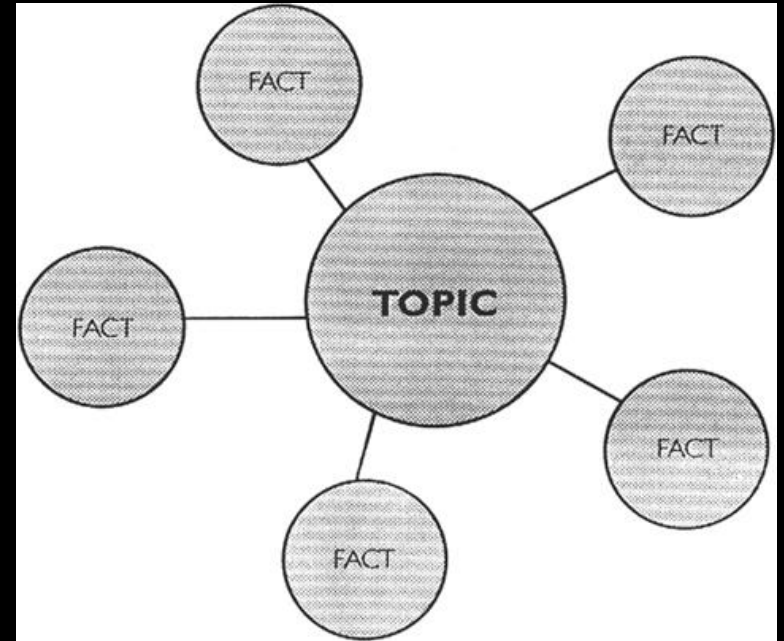


|              |                   |              |                    |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| <b>FRONT</b> | <b>term</b>       | <b>date</b>  | <b>concept</b>     |
| <b>BACK</b>  | <b>definition</b> | <b>event</b> | <b>explanation</b> |

# PREPARE

Use **graphic organizers**

- ✓ mind maps
- ✓ time lines
- ✓ word webs



Group and organize important concepts into ways that make sense to **you**.

# Before the Test



- ✓ Get enough sleep the night before your test
- ✓ Eat a healthy breakfast

# Come Prepared



Mr. Bean clip 1:55 - 3:30



# During the Test

- ✓ Set a comfortable pace
  - ✓ Divide the time remaining by the number of problems
  - ✓ Ignore the other students in the room
- ✓ Answer easy questions first
  - ✓ Build your confidence



75 min

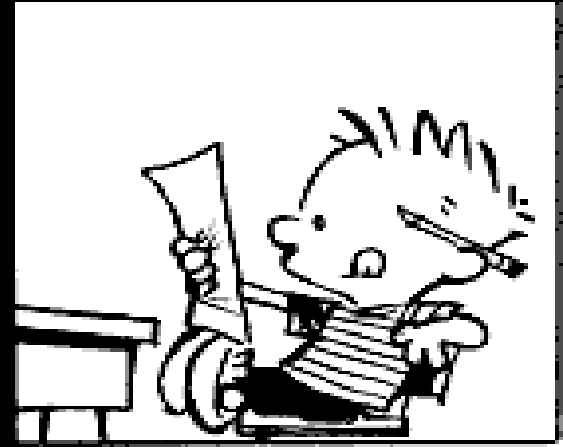
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150 questions

=

0.5 min / question

# During the Test



- ✓ Go with your gut
- ✓ Answer ALL the questions
- ✓ Reread your test carefully before handing it in

# During the Test



- ✓ Stay relaxed
  - ✓ You think more clearly when you're relaxed

Video Clip: Tension Breaker

# During the Test



## ✓ Answer ALL Parts

- ✓ Read the question carefully and make sure that you answer EVERYTHING that it asks for. Some short answer questions have multiple parts.

### For Example...

What makes Mr. Jellema the best principal in Surrey? Why is Enver Creek the best school in Surrey? Provide examples for each.

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**“When can I stop making wild guesses and  
start making educated guesses?”**

# During the Test



- ✓ Be aware of how many marks each question is worth.
  - ✓ If a question is worth 3 marks, you need to include 3 separate pieces of information.

For Example...

Describe **the main points** of the Kinetic Molecular Theory. (4 marks)

# During the Test

## ✓ Return to Challenges

If you don't know the answer, come back to it after you finish the rest of the test and make an **educated guess**. Other parts of the test may give you **clues** to the answer.



# Types of Questions



- ✓ True / False
- ✓ Matching
- ✓ Multiple Choice
- ✓ Written Response



# True / False Questions



- ✓ **Every part** of a true sentence must be "true"
- ✓ If **any** part of the sentence is false, the **whole sentence** is false despite many other true statements.
- ✓ E.g. Mr. Macgregor is extremely intelligent, a sharp dresser, and a great hockey player.



# Matching Questions

## 3 Strategies

# Matching Questions



## Strategy #1

Eliminate the easy ones first!



- ✓ If an answer can only be used once, cross it out after it has been used.

# Matching Questions



## Strategy #2

Determine whether the definition describes a person, place, or thing.

Only match:

- ✓ people with people
- ✓ places with places
- ✓ things with things

# Matching Questions



## Strategy #3

- ✓ Use your knowledge of the English language to find clues within the definitions.
- ✓ Look for familiar prefixes and suffixes within larger terms
- ✓ E.g. hydroelectric power

# Multiple Choice Questions

## 3 Strategies



# Multiple Choice



## Strategy #1

- ✓ Eliminate an obviously wrong choice

What is the capital of B.C.?

- a) Seattle
- b) Vancouver
- c) Victoria
- d) Kelowna

# Multiple Choice



## Strategy #2

- ✓ Watch out for **absolute** words
  - ✓ no, never, none, no one
  - ✓ all, always, every, entirely
  - ✓ only, ever
- ✓ These words mean the statement must be true **100%** of the time. Think carefully before you choose this type of answer.



# Multiple Choice



## Strategy #3 Trick for “All” Questions

- ✓ If you're sure that **at least two** of the choices are right, then the answer must be “All.”
- ✓ Which of the following are types of math?
  - a) adding
  - b) subtracting
  - c) logarithms
  - d) all of the above

# Multiple Choice



## Strategy #3 (continued)

- ✓ If you know that at least one of the choices is **incorrect**, then the answer can't be "All."
- ✓ Which of the following are types of math?
  - a) art
  - b) neurology
  - c) trigonometry
  - d) all of the above



# Written Response Questions 4 Strategies

# Written Responses



## Strategy #1

Read the instructions very carefully.

# Written Responses



## Strategy #2

Write a strong thesis statement.

- ✓ State your main point (argument) clearly.
  - ✓ If you don't have a clear idea of what you're trying to say, your essay will be weak and difficult to understand.

# Written Responses



## Strategy #3

Prove your thesis

- ✓ Back up your argument by providing examples and reasons that clearly explain why your thesis is right.

# Written Responses



## Strategy #4

### Proofread

- ✓ Proofread your essay before handing it in to make sure you have said all the important points for your topic.



All the best  
with your upcoming exams!