

How Are My Study Strategies?

Name: Date:

	NONE OF THE TIME 0	SOME OF THE TIME 1	MOST OF THE TIME 2	ALL OF THE TIME 3
Following Directions: I read all directions before beginning a test or assignment.				
Academic Support: I write down and organize my ideas before beginning a writing assignment.				
Note Taking: I write down, in my own words, what the teacher puts on the board.				
Note Taking: I can identify the main idea and supporting details of lectures and readings.				
Memory: I use a variety of memory strategies when preparing for tests.				
Test Preparation: I make a study plan before preparing for a test, including what to study, which strategies to use, and when to study.				
Test Preparation: I study for multiple-choice tests differently than I do for essay tests.				
Test Review: I review my errors on graded tests.				

Reflection Questions:

- How can I improve my notes so that I can use them to study for tests?
- What memory strategies do I find useful?
- How can I improve my test preparation strategies?

The Best Way for Me to Prepare

Name: Date:

Subject: Test Date:

NOTE TAKING	REVIEW CLASSWORK
<input type="radio"/> Take notes from the text	<input type="radio"/> Past homework, readings, and handouts
<input type="radio"/> Make personal connections in notes	<input type="radio"/> Old quizzes/tests
<input type="radio"/> Highlight notes	<input type="radio"/> Reread the material
<input type="radio"/> Reformat class notes	<input type="radio"/> Focus on past mistakes
<input type="radio"/> Verbalize notes	
CREATE	STUDY WITH OTHERS
<input type="radio"/> List of possible test questions	<input type="radio"/> Have someone quiz me
<input type="radio"/> Flashcards with questions and answers	<input type="radio"/> Plan a study group
<input type="radio"/> Study guide	<input type="radio"/> Teach the material to someone
<input type="radio"/> List of questions to ask teacher	
<input type="radio"/> Acronyms/acrostics	CONSIDER LEARNING STRENGTHS
<input type="radio"/> Vocabulary cards (add pictures)	<input type="radio"/> Create a movement, rhyme, song, picture
<input type="radio"/> Diagrams/pictures of concepts	<input type="radio"/> Organize information/material
<input type="radio"/> Graphic organizer	<input type="radio"/> Orally recite material
	<input type="radio"/> Make personal connections
OTHERS	<input type="radio"/> Categorize information
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> Study with others
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> Quiz myself

I plan on studying days in advance for this test.

MY SMART GOAL FOR THIS TEST IS:

Test-Taking Tips

Name:

Date:

Have Test Awareness

You can improve your test scores just by being thoughtful about the way you take tests. Here are some tips to keep in mind when you take a test:

- Read the directions carefully and underline key words.
- Ask your teacher to explain any unclear directions.
- Look over the entire test before answering any questions.
- Answer the easy questions first.
- If you are unsure of the correct answer, read through other questions on the test. You can often find useful information in other questions.
- Scan the test to see whether you left any answers blank.
- Check your answers if you finish early.

POWERFUL QUESTIONS

1. *Do I understand the directions?*
2. *What kinds of questions are being asked, and which strategies can I use to help me answer them?*
3. *How long will this test take me, and how long should I spend on each section?*
4. *Did I make an educated guess when I was unsure, and did I answer every question?*

Know Your Questions

Different types of questions require different strategies. Be aware of the kind of question you are being asked and how to best answer it.

TRUE/FALSE

- Mark your answers without looking for a pattern.
- Write *T* and *F* clearly.
- Read the entire statement carefully.
- Know that all parts of the statement must be true for the statement to be true.
- If there are exceptions to a statement, it is false.
- Look for cue words often used in FALSE statements. Those include *never, best, only, always, worst, first, not, exactly, totally, none, all, because, every, and invariably.*
- Look for cue words often used in TRUE statements. Those include *more, may, most, occasionally, generally, equally, frequently, less, seldom, mainly, often, usually, sometimes, probably, might, good, many, fewer, and some.*
- Watch for double negatives. Change double negative statements into positive statements.
- If you don't know the answer, guess. You have a 50 percent chance of being right.
- Keep your original answer, unless you are sure it is wrong.

Test-Taking Tips (continued)

MULTIPLE CHOICE

- Try to answer the question in your head before looking at the choices.
- Read all choices before marking your answer.
- Choose the best answer. There might be more than one “right” answer.
- Look for cue words often used with incorrect choices. Those include *never, all, not, exactly, always, totally, none, only, and every*.
- Use the process of elimination. That means you cross out choices you know are wrong.
- If you don’t know, make your best guess. Do this by excluding responses you know are wrong.
- Look for grammar clues.

MATCHING

- Check to see how many choices are in each column.
- Start with the column that has the longest choices.
- Match items you know first.
- Draw a line through completed items.
- Look for grammar clues.

COMPLETION

- Ask ahead of time about whether a word bank will be provided.
- Look at the length of the blank and number of blanks, which could give you a hint.
- If a word bank is provided, cross out words as you use them.
- Try to answer the question without using the word bank; then find the best fit.
- Use grammar clues. For example, notice which word comes right before the blank.
- Answer all questions. If necessary, make your best guess.

ESSAY/SHORT ANSWER

- Check the time remaining.
- Read and reread the question/prompt.
- Find and circle key words and specific actions, numbering each action.
- Carefully consider the direction words. Those include *argue, explain, justify, describe, analyze, summarize, and evaluate*. Then craft a response.
- Decide whether your answer can be completed in one paragraph.
- Form a topic sentence by rephrasing the question as a statement.
- Make an outline or visually organize the information you will use in your answer.
- Create a summary statement.
- Reread the question and your response to make sure your response completely and clearly answers the question.

Test-Taking Tips (continued)

Looking for Hints?

Below are strategies to use when completing different types of tests.

TYPE OF QUESTION	STRATEGY
TRUE/FALSE	If any part of the statement is false or if there are exceptions to the statement, it is FALSE.
MULTIPLE CHOICE	Answer the question in your mind before looking at the choices.
MATCHING	Start with the column that has the most choices and cross them out as you match.
COMPLETION	Fill in the blank with your own word before looking at the choices.
ESSAY/SHORT ANSWER	Plan out your answer before you write. Start by rewriting the question as your topic sentence.