

Test Taking Tips

Here are a few tips on how to improve on test scores. You may have a few ideas of your own as well.

- **Be prepared!** Success depends on knowing your subject matter, but it can also be influenced by how you feel the day of the test. A good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast can make a difference in how well you do.
- **Practice!** For standardized tests such as the SAT, ACT, and TASP, it is extremely helpful to take practice tests. These can be found in most large book stores. On the Internet, one good website is www.collegeboard.org where you click on SAT Learning Center. The Princeton Review, at www.review.com also has programs and materials available to assist students in preparing for tests.
- **Increase your odds on multiple choice questions.**
 - As you're reading the question, try to come up with the answer in your head before you look at the choices.
 - If you're not sure of an answer, eliminate the choices you know are incorrect by crossing them out; then make an educated guess.
 - If two choices are similar or opposite, probably one of them is the correct answer.
 - If you have *absolutely* no idea, go with the longest and/or most detailed answer, or with one of the middle answers.
- **Look for key words in True/False questions.** Statements with *always*, *never*, *every*, *seldom*, *all*, and *none* in them are usually false. Statements with *usually*, *often*, *sometimes*, *most*, and *many* in them are usually true. Remember, for a statement to be true, every part of it must be true.
- **Mark questions you want to return to.** As you go through the test, put a dot or light checkmark by any answer you're not sure of. After you have gone through all the questions, go back to the ones you've marked and try them again.
- **DON'T PANIC!** Stay calm if you don't know the answers to the first few questions. Sometimes it takes a few minutes for your brain to get in gear. Chances are you'll know the answers when you come back to them later. If you're not sure of an answer, always go with your first instinct.
- **Check answers.** If you have time, check all of your answers, even the ones you know are correct. You may have read the question wrong or made a careless mistake. Always use all the time that you are given.