

Test-Taking Tips

Introduction

- Remember it's okay to not know everything — unlike class tests, these tests will have some questions designed to challenge the limits of your knowledge at a grade level *above* your current grade.
- If your arm tires during testing it is probably due to the grip that you have on your pencil.
- Relax the grip and give those muscles a break.

General Testing Tips

- If you do not understand the directions, ask the teacher.
- Make sure you understand what the question is asking, if not, ask the teacher.
- Read *all* answer choices before marking anything.
- Do not change your answers unless you are very uncertain about your first answer choice.
- Try to answer every question. Make the most intelligent guess you can.

Time Management

- Don't spend too much time on any one question.
- Answer the easiest questions first, but be sure to go back to those questions you skipped.
- Don't spend too much time rewriting or obsessing about neatness.
- Don't worry if you run out of time.

Process of Elimination

- Find keywords or phrases in the question that will help you choose the correct answer.
- Use the knowledge you have and eliminate choices that you know are incorrect.
- If you can eliminate two wrong answers, your chance of choosing the right answer is greater.

At the end

- If you finish early, check to make sure you have answered all questions.
- At the end of time, mark guesses by using the same letter choice every time. This gives you the best chance for the highest score.

Tips to Review right before those subjects

Reading

- If the test requires you to read passages and then answer questions about what you read:
 - read the questions first.
 - By doing this, you will know what you are looking for as you read. This also helps you manage your time well on the test.
 - When there are several questions about a reading passage or chart, look for clues in other questions that will help you with those items about which you are unsure.

Math Computation

- When using scratch paper on a math test, double check to make sure that you have copied the problem correctly from the test booklet!
- Line up place value correctly on your scratch paper (thousands, hundreds, tens, ones) or the answer will be incorrect.
- If any time remains, spend it on those questions about which you know nothing or almost nothing.
- As you go back through, do not change all answers.
- *Remember: Your first guess is usually right.*