

Five Essential Tips for Mastering Multiple Choice Exams

Forget the old tricks of always picking “C” or choosing the longest answer those approaches won’t help you succeed on university level multiple choice exams. While thorough preparation, attending class, and consistent studying are the keys to success, how you approach the exam itself can make a big difference. Here are five practical strategies to help you tackle multiple choice questions with confidence:

Read Each Question Carefully

Pay close attention to the wording of every question. Words like **“not,” “never,” “always,”** or **“except”** can completely change what’s being asked. Underline or highlight these keywords so you don’t miss them. Misreading the question is one of the most common avoidable mistakes.

Try to Answer Before Looking at the Choices

Before you look at the given options, take a moment to come up with your own answer. Then compare your idea to the provided choices and look for the one that matches your thinking. This helps you avoid being misled by tricky or confusing distractors.

Eliminate Clearly Wrong Answers

If you’re unsure, start by crossing out answers you know are incorrect. This increases your chances of picking the right one. If you’re left with two choices, reread the question carefully and reconsider the key terms. It’s okay to skip and come back later if you’re stuck.

Answer Every Question

Never leave a question blank. Even if you’re uncertain, take your best guess. Unanswered questions guarantee zero marks, but an educated guess gives you a shot at picking up points. If you’re unsure, mark the question and return to it after completing the easier ones.

Watch the Clock

Keep track of your time so you can complete the entire exam and have time left for review. For example, if you have 60 minutes and 50 questions, aim to finish answering in 50 minutes, leaving the final 10 minutes to double-check your answers and fill in your response sheet.

References

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