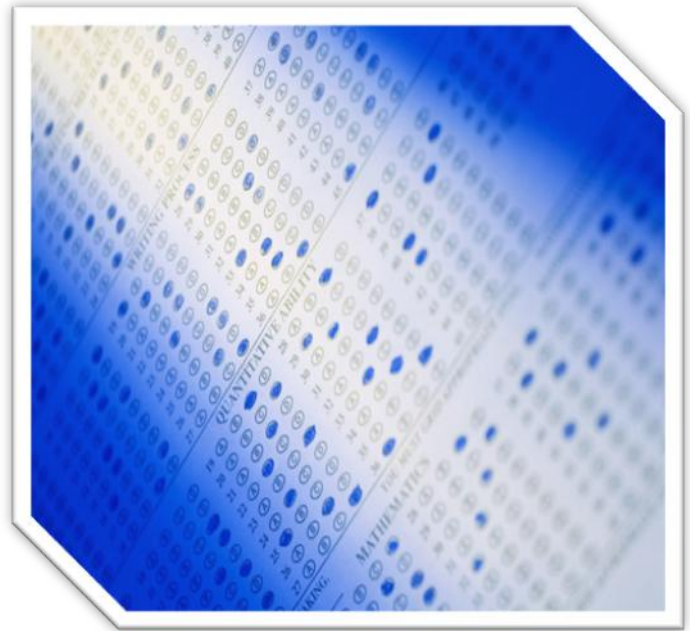


# Taking Standardized Tests

- Listen carefully to the instructions that your proctor reads and read along if this is an option.
- Make sure you are taking the right test at the right time on the right place on the answer sheet. 😊 (This pointer may sound stupid, but be aware that many students have made a mistake in one or more of these areas!)
- Read all other instructions within the test.
- Pay attention to the time. You might want to wear a watch on the day of the test so you can track the time yourself.
- Read the questions carefully. Refer back to last week's worksheet on guidelines for taking tests, the multiple-choice section.
- Answer the easy questions first and return to the more difficult questions later.
- Read all your choices carefully. Try to eliminate the answer choices that are obviously wrong. This is especially important when you return to those harder questions. Narrow down your choices and make an educated guess if you can.
- When all else fails, GUESS (provided that you will not be penalized for incorrect answers). Guessing is tricky business. You are better off picking a letter for the day, such as "Today I will be B." For example, if on question 29 you guess and randomly choose letter C, when the answer was actually B, then on 30 you guess and randomly choose B, when the answer was actually C, you will



get both wrong. By choosing a letter for the day, like B, in this case you would have had one of these two questions right. Get it?

➤ Know how the test will be scored. For example, some tests will penalize you for wrong answers. If so, you want to avoid guessing on these tests. If you are not penalized for wrong answers, you want to be certain that you answer all the questions. It's like that saying, "You can't win if you don't play." That is, if you leave a question blank, you will definitely get the question wrong, whereas if you guess, there's a chance you will guess right.

➤ Go back and check your answers if you have time left when you're finished. **BUT BE CAREFUL!** The general rule of thumb is your first choice is usually the correct choice. Don't second-guess yourself. Change the answer only if you are certain that your first inclination was incorrect.

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