Multiple Choice Strategies

1. Always read the entire question and all the choices before you mark your answer.
2. Remember that each question’s set of answers may have several that may seem correct, but you need to choose the best answer.
3. If “all of the above” is an option, all you have to do is check to make sure that at least two answer options are absolutely correct. More often than not, “all of the above” is correct.
4. Weed-out as many of the answers as possible.
   1. One or more of the answers may be obviously wrong.
   2. Put a line through any answers that you can eliminate right away.
5. Avoid wild guessing – make your “guessing” an educated choice.
6. If time is a factor for your test, questions that require you to analyze statistical data or evaluate an excerpt may take you longer.
7. Extreme words like, “Always”, “Never”, “Completely”, “Entirely”, or “Definitely” may be a signal for incorrect answers because in many subjects there is rarely an absolute; therefore, there’s a strong possibility that the use of a moderate word will be the correct answer.
8. Bad question writers might have one answer option that is longer than the rest. Lots of times, that’s the correct answer.
9. If two options are opposites, it is probably one of those two.
10. If two options are the same, then it is probably not either of those.
11. Words like EXCEPT, NOT, or LEAST are markers that the question has been turned “upside down” and therefore the answer is the one that doesn’t belong. Treat this type of question as a true/false question; 3 options are true and 1 option is false.
12. Questions that include sources (tables, charts, graphs, maps, political cartoons, photos, artwork, or quotes) require that you pay attention to the context. Read the title, interpret the data, read the captions, and pay attention to the any date ranges that have been listed.
13. Skip difficult questions, mark them for your reference, and come back to them once you finish the easy questions.

The D-A-S-H Method

**D**o I usually get this type of question right?

**A**lways: Just answer it.

**S**ometimes: Circle it and come back. Make sure you read the question two times.

**H**ardly Ever: Make an X over it. Only answer the question if you have time after answering all other questions.