

TIMED-TEST STRATEGIES:

1. Learn the section directions now. Use the time saved during the test to work on questions.
2. Answer easy questions first. Mark skipped questions in your test book so you can quickly return to them later.
3. Guess...if you can eliminate at least one choice.
4. You can write in the test book: cross out wrong answers; do scratch work.
5. Avoid stray marks on the answer sheet. A machine scores your test and can't distinguish between a correct answer and a careless doodle.
6. Mark only one answer per question.
7. Understand the scoring! You get a point for a right answer. There is no deduction for omitted answers or for wrong answers. However, filling in each question with even a guess is better than leaving the answer grid blank—you may guess right!
8. Keep checking that you are placing your answer in the correct section and number on the answer sheet.
9. Don't spend too much time on any one question. You should spend only seconds on the easiest questions, and hesitate to spend more than 1-2 minutes on even the hardest ones.
10. Don't change an answer unless you're sure you made an error.
11. Read the words in the question carefully.

Specific Strategies for English Section:

1. Review English grammar and usage, as well as punctuation, parts of speech, sentence structure, and word parts.
2. Don't rush your selection. Consider all the answers to make the best choice.
3. Use the context of nearby words to figure out unknown words.
4. Pace yourself. You have roughly (actually slightly less than) 1/2 minute for each question.
5. Examine each underlined portion with care.
6. When searching for sentence errors, start by reading the sentence or paragraph carefully, listening in your head; usually the word or phrase that contains an error will sound wrong.
7. **After you've made your choice, mentally substitute your answer into the underlined portion to see if it seems correct.**
8. Look for the four most common types of errors: Errors in the relationship between the verb and its subject; Pronoun errors; Sentence structure errors.

Mathematics

As soon as you find the right answer, mark it and move on. Marking up diagrams or sketching simple drawings when none are available can help you "see" the answers. The questions generally focus on mathematical reasoning, not your ability to perform calculations.

As you work through the multiple-choice math questions, you'll be given reference information (formulas and facts), but you'll need to know how to use them. You're allowed to use a calculator, but it won't help you unless you know how to approach the problems. You can also try plugging in numbers from the answer choices. Start with the middle number. That way, if it doesn't work, you can strategically choose one that's higher or lower.

Reading

Focus on the big ideas in each passage, not the small details. Look for connections among ideas in each passage. This test will focus on skills such as referring to details in a passage; drawing conclusions; making comparisons and generalizations.

Science Reasoning

Don't be confused by irrelevant information or technical terminology -- most science reasoning passages have them, and they can almost always be ignored.