

LAST MINUTE LIFELINE

Written exams test your memory in 2 ways:

1. What you can REMEMBER (Recall)
2. What you can RECOGNIZE (Figure out)

REMEMBER/RECALL answers, whether in essay questions, short answer questions, True-False questions, or multiple choice questions are fairly simple; If you actually KNOW and REMEMBER something, it's an 'easy' question: **What's your name and address and where do you work?**

On a test of those questions, we'd all do quite well. But when we don't KNOW the answers (or don't recall them at that moment), we must rely on RECOGNIZING the correct answer: IT IS THERE, of course, just below the question, with some WRONG answers as company. The trick is recognizing the real from the fake, and often it's easier to spot the fakes first (and then ELIMINATE them from the pool of possible answers). AFTER you've answered all the questions whose answers you REMEMBER, go back to the ones you didn't know or didn't answer (Careful with that answer sheet & 'skipped' questions!).

Here are some tips in making an Educated Guess when the Recall just isn't there just then:

TRUE/FALSE

- > In order to be marked TRUE, a statement must be true without exception. AND, if any part of a true/false statement is false, the whole thing is false.
- > If any ABSOLUTE WORDS are in an answer, it's *probably* false. E.g. All, Everyone, None, Always, Only, No, Never, Every.
- > If any Common Qualifiers are in the answer, it's *often* true. E.g. Seldom, Many, Sometimes, Frequently, Usually, rarely, likely.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

- > As in True/False answers, if any part of any answer is false, that answer is NOT correct; answers with Absolute words are *usually* NOT correct, but choices with Common Qualifiers *MIGHT* be correct.
- > If one remaining answer is "All of the above" or "both C and D", it is *probably* correct.
- > If two answers are the same, then neither is correct. E.g. A Kilogram is approximately equal to:
a. 2.5 pounds b. 2.2 pounds c. 22 pounds d. 2 pounds 8 ounces
- > When two answers are very similar, one is *probably* correct: E.g. The Hawaiian Islands are found in the:
a. Atlantic Ocean b. Pacific Ocean c. Black Sea d. Gulf of Mexico
- > When two answers are **exact** opposites, ONE is *always* wrong, and the other is *often* (BUT NOT ALWAYS) correct.
- > When answers contain numbers, the correct answer is *usually* NOT the highest or lowest.
- > When all of your remaining choices seem equally likely (& you STILL DON'T KNOW FOR SURE), select the one which is longest and has the most information.
- > The correct answer will agree in number, gender, and person with the question, and it will be grammatically correct. E.g. if the question calls for a 'they' answer, an answer that says 'he' is usually incorrect; a question that asks for 'an' will have an answer that starts with a vowel

You've heard it before: There's no substitute for long-term, on-going studying if you want to pass a test with a high score. However, in the absence of such preparation, or if a dreaded case of the 'Blanks' hits during the test, you might be able to use some of the tips to eliminate the wrong answers, in your search for the correct one.