

TAKING A MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAM

Multiple-choice exams test your ability to apply knowledge, think critically, and identify the best answer, not just recognize information.

Before the Exam

Prepare with active study strategies like self-quizzing, practice questions, and retrieval practice rather than simply rereading your notes. The better you can recall and apply information from memory, the more prepared you'll be for the exam.

Read Carefully

Read the entire question before looking at the answer choices. Pay attention to key words such as most, best, except, first, or not, as they can change the meaning of the question. Before viewing the options, try to predict the answer in your own mind.

Look for the Best Answer

On many multiple choice exams, more than one answer may be partially, or even completely, true. Your job is to identify the answer that best addresses the question being asked. Compare the remaining options carefully and consider which one is the most accurate, complete, or appropriate based on the course material.

Watch for Plausible Distractors

Many instructors include plausible distractors, answer choices that sound reasonable because they contain familiar terms or are partially correct. These questions are designed to measure how well you understand the material, not just whether you recognize it.

When choosing an answer, ask yourself:

- Does this fully answer the question?
- Is it supported by what I learned in class?
- Is another option more complete or more accurate?

Quick Strategy: The "PACE" Method

P – Preview the question. Read it before looking at the options.

A – Anticipate the answer from memory.

C – Compare the choices. Eliminate distractors and identify the best answer.

E – Evaluate and move on. Make your best choice and return later if needed.



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