Test-taking Strategies

Multiple-Choice Tests

Education Department
Upland Center 106
Fall 2012
Why Multiple Choice Tests Take Time

- Tests may include questions that ask you to
  - Analyze situations
  - Synthesize material
  - Apply knowledge to specific examples
- Strong reading skills are required
- Processing skills and reading efficiently are necessary to be successful
Multiple Choice Question Types

- Complete the statement
  - Select the correct choice that will make the completed statement correct. To check your answer, reread the question and add your answer choice at the end. Be sure that your choice best completes the sentence.
    - Ex: Children who demonstrate typical language development most often begin using two-word utterances between the ages of
      - A. 6 to 9 months
      - B. 12 to 15 months
      - C. 18 to 24 months
      - D. 30 to 36 months
Multiple Choice Question Types

- Which of the following....
  - Placement of the phrase “Which of the following...”, may tell you that the list of choices is a list of “rationales.”
  - Ex: Some teachers require their student to give oral book reports. Which of the following is the best rationale for using oral book reports to motivate students to read?
    - You are supposed to find the choice that describes a motivating factor inherent in the activity of giving an oral book report.
    - Try your own words: Why is an oral book report something that would help make a student want to read?
Multiple Choice Question Types

- Try to circle or underline critical parts of what is being asked

  - Ex: Which of the following **strategies** will best foster **multiculturalism** in the classroom?
    - A. Playing a variety of music from different cultures
    - B. Providing foods from various cultures
    - C. Inviting families to share their customs with the class
    - D. Hanging travel posters from various countries in the classroom
Multiple Choice Question Types

- **Understanding questions containing “NOT,” “LEAST,” or “EXCEPT”**
  - The key to answering questions with LEAST is remembering that you are looking for the smallest or lowest degree as your correct answer.
  - For questions with EXCEPT or NOT, you are looking for the incorrect choice as your correct answer.
Multiple Choice Question Types

- **Roman numeral choices**
  - This format is used when there can be more than one correct answer in the list. Assess each possible Roman Numeral before looking at the lettered answer choices.
  - Ex: A third-grade class is learning about the 50 states and their capitals. The teacher uses a variety of independent, whole-class, and at-home learning activities to meet the objectives of the unit. After testing the students on all of the objectives, the teacher compares individual student performance to the performance of the other student in the class. The evaluation described above is best characterized as which of the following?
    - I. Formative
    - II. Summative
    - III. Norm-referenced
    - IV. Criterion-referenced
    - A. I and II
    - B. I and IV
    - C. II and III
    - D. II and IV
Multiple Choice Question Types

- Questions about graphs, tables, or reading passages
  - Answer the question that is asked.
  - Read the questions first, then look at the table or graph in light of the questions you have to answer.
  - Ex: Bobby and Jasmine are kindergarten students who are playing at the water station. Jasmine fells a cup with water, lifts it up, and turns it over. She says, “Look Bobby, I’m making rain!” Bobby replies, “I can make rain, too.” He then picks up the plastic watering can and pours the water into the water station. Which of the following instructional strategies would best support Jasmine’s and Bobby’s cognitive development in science?
    - A. Reading the class a story about rain and discussing the characters in the story
    - B. Drawing a picture showing a rainy day and telling a story based on the picture
    - C. Showing the class a video about rain and building the word “rain” with alphabet letters
    - D. Performing an inquiry lesson dealing with evaporation and condensation of water and asking how it applies to rain
Smart Tips for Taking the Test

- Mark/Flag the questions you find difficult
- Keep track of time
- Read all of the possible answers before selecting one and then reread the questions to be sure the answer you selected really answers the question being asked
- Check your answers
Smart Tips for Taking the Test

- Test Taking Strategies on You Tube
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCM0kFeT7tk
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7iTkdzxWYM