

Are You A Good Test Taker?

Answer these questions - Yes or No - to find out!

- Y N 1. Do you make sure that you understand what will be on the test?
- Y N 2. Do you know the format of the test - multiple choice, true or false, essay, etc.?
- Y N 3. Do you review the information for the test and jot down memory aids, formulas or facts that you might forget?
- Y N 4. Do you stay up late studying the night before a test?
- Y N 5. Do you feel confident about what you know?
- Y N 6. Do you wait until the last minute before the bell to arrive for a test?
- Y N 7. Do you listen carefully to directions before beginning a test?
- Y N 8. Do you hurry to complete the test before everyone else?
- Y N 9. Do you go back and change answers after you finish a test?
- Y N 10. When you get a corrected test back, do you review the items you missed?

Test Taking Strategies

1. **Read directions** carefully before you start!
2. Glance over the entire test – is there a side 2? Know how many items there are and **pace yourself**.
3. Answer **true/false and multiple choice** items first.
4. If you get stuck on an item, **move on**; you can come back if there's time.
5. The first sentence of your essay should **re-state the question** and help you develop an organized response.
6. **Review all your answers**, checking math, spelling and other small details that may need correcting, but **do not change an answer unless you are 100% sure!**

If you answered **YES** ...

To items 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 10, you apparently know how important it is to know what kind of test you'll be taking, to review the information using memory tricks that work for you, and to pay attention to the teacher's instructions. This should all help you feel more confident and relaxed during the test.

The best answer to the following items is **NO**:

4. Don't wait to "cram" the night before a test. Study over a period of days, then review the night before. A **good night's sleep** will help you think clearly during the test.
6. **Arrive in plenty of time** to get settled, organize your materials, and to take a deep, relaxing breath.
8. There aren't any extra points for being the first to finish, so simply move through the items at a pace that gives you **time to do your best work**.
10. You can **learn from your mistakes**, and an old test makes a good study guide for the next one!