

Preparing for Multiple Choice Tests and Exams

Multiple choice questions consist of a stem (the question or problem) and 4 or 5 possible answers. Your task is to choose the best answer. If a question asks you to choose "the most correct answer," your professor wants you to use critical thinking skills to answer the question correctly.

Some effective strategies for multiple choice questions include:

- Read each question carefully. Watch out for qualifiers, absolute language (e.g., always, never), and double negatives)
- Answer the questions you know first. Skip questions you can't answer right away and come back to them later.
- Think of the correct answer before you look at the options.
- Eliminate answers you know are incorrect.
- Mark up questions. Underline and highlight key words. Cross out the distractors.
- Practice in advance. Use questions from your textbook or create your own.

Sources:

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