



# TEST TAKING STRATEGIES

## 1. True or False

- If any part of the question is wrong, the whole thing is false.
- Follow your first instinct (unless you can prove it absolutely wrong).

## 2. Fill-in-the-blank Questions

- Read the question with the intent to give an answer and make the sentence grammatically correct.
- Provide a descriptive answer when you cannot think of the exact word or words.

## 3. Matching Questions

- Use one list as a starting point and go through the second list to find a match.
- Move through the entire list before selecting a match.
- Cross off items on the second list when you are certain that you have a match.

## 4. Multiple Choice

- See if you can answer the question before looking at the choices. You're less likely to be led astray by those sneaky answers.
- Read all the answers and look for the one which *best* completes the stem.
- Use the process of elimination.
- When numbers are in each choice, and you're not sure which is correct, choose numbers in the middle range, and avoid the extremes.

## 5. Essay Questions

- Before you begin to write, organize your thoughts in a short outline. This can be as complex as a diagram or as simple as a list of words that represent topics you need to cover to answer the question(s) for that prompt.
- Paraphrase the original question or short prompt to form your introductory statement.
- Write your answer clearly so the reader will be able to understand your ideas. When in doubt, clarify.

# BYU TESTING CENTER TIPS

testing.byu.edu

- + Always have your ID card with you. If you forget it or can't find it, the ID card function on the BYU iOS app is an acceptable substitute, or else have a printout with you of your entire ID card from RouteY.
- + Know the class number (e.g. Bio 100) and professor's name beforehand.
- + There is a testing room upstairs that plays classical music (the same playlist as the music section on the 2nd floor of the library).
- + Bring a pair of earplugs to the testing center if noise makes it hard for you to concentrate.
- + Food and drink are allowed, as long as they are non-disruptive. (A bag of popcorn or potato chips is probably a bad idea.)
- + Sometimes it's chilly, sometimes it's warm, so if you'll be there a while, plan on layering your clothing. Try wearing a short sleeve shirt and bringing a sweater or jacket.
- + Check line conditions before you push the limit for time. (testing.byu.edu --> General Information --> Line Conditions)
- + Be sure to check the hours the testing center is open! (testing.byu.edu --> General Information --> Testing Center Hours)
- + Bring two pencils. If you don't have one, you can buy one from them for 30 cents, which they'll charge to your student financial center account.
- + Make *sure* you are following the Honor-Code. They *will* turn you away if you are not clean shaven or wearing revealing clothing.

Career & Academic Success Center

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