**Test Taking Tips**

**Who Does Well On Multiple-Choice Exams?**

1. Those who know the material. Know the material that’s going to be covered. Learn the rules, dates, names, and concepts that you’ll be tested on. Practice quizzing yourself.
2. Those who have a calm, cool demeanor when taking a test. Panicking can cause you to forget the information you think you know. Confidence goes a long way toward a better mark on multiple-choice. Use positive self talk.
3. Those who meditate or pray before the test. Don’t laugh. It’s a known fact that people who meditate or pray, depending on their beliefs, enter a test room more confidently, and do better on the exam. Think about it.
4. Those who operate on logic rather than instinct. Those who take a multiple-choice test based on instinct will be tempted to overlook the stated facts, and let emotion rule. Prove every answer.
5. Those who have a system. This lesson will deal with this, but you should not just guess randomly on questions you don’t know. You must have a systematic strategy to selecting the right answer. Know the test types.

**Types of Multiple-Choice Questions**

Let’s examine the various types of multiple-choice questions you are likely to encounter.

1. **The “Who, What, Where Question.”** This is the simplest, most basic form of multiple-choice question. It asks for you to recall a single, simple fact about the material. For instance:

Where did the Wright Brothers fly their first airplane?

a. Richmond, VA

b. Kitty Hawk, NC

c. Charlotte, NC

d. Philadelphia, PA

The correct answer is B. This question simply asks for you to correctly identify a place name.

2. **The “Multiple-Answer” Multiple-choice Question.** This one varies from the “Who, What, Where” question in that more than one answer could be correct. It often appears like this:

Which of the following was not a declared war by the U.S. Congress?

I. World War I

II. World War II

III. The Korean War

IV. The Vietnam War

a. I only

b. I and II only

c. III only

d. IV only

e. III and IV only

The correct answer here is E; neither the Korean nor Vietnam Wars were declared a war by Congress. People are tempted, as soon as they see a right answer, to select it, without thinking that there might be another answer that’s also right.

3. **The “Best Answer” Multiple-choice Question**. On this type, the there might not be one clear objective answer, but rather, you’re required to select the one that comes closest to being right, or closest to what you believe is right. For example:

**The factor which was the most to blame for the 1986 explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger was:**

a. It launched too early in the morning.

b. The cold weather allowed ice to develop.

c. The astronauts did not have enough sleep.

d. The astronauts were not adequately trained.

While it’s entirely possible that C or D might have played a role, it’s now commonly believed that the cause was the ice which had built up on the Shuttle’s “O” rings. Some answers are possible, but B is the best answer. Don’t pick the difficult to argue point.

4. **The “Fill in the Blank” Multiple-choice Question**. This is frequently used on both grammar and reading comprehension tests. The question is presented as a sentence, with one or two key words left out. You must choose the correct one to fill the blank. Example:

**The animals at the zoo \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the visitors.**

a. Did not feed

b. Cannot fed

c. Should not be fed

d. Never feeding

The answer is C, since “The animals at the zoo should not be fed by the visitors” is the only one which makes good, grammatical sense.