
Student Success \ Exam-taking

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Multiple Choice Exams

- **Read the question first.** Try to answer it yourself.
- **Read all choices one by one** - then decide. Use key words.
- In social sciences: **qualifiers** are usually the correct response. Examples: “however”, “but”, “in certain cases”, etc.
- In sciences: **absolutes** are usually correct. Example: boiling temperature of water.
- **Flow:** don't get stuck on questions; move along and come back later.
- When you return to what you skipped, figure out which answer is impossible.
- Cross out **distractors** that are wrong. Clear your field of vision.
- Responses that look like the word in the question are usually incorrect. Example: allusion, illusion, illustration.
- **Similar distractors:** are they really similar? Key word(s) may make the difference. If they both say the same thing, they are usually incorrect.
- **Guessing:** the first “gut” impression – longest, most precise answer – answer that is in the middle.
- **Similar answers:** check for key words in the question and the answers.
- **Check your exam** before handing it in (e.g. response sheet).