Test-taking Skills:  
Objective Exam Questions

Objective Questions require you to recognize whether or not information is correct, and then apply skills to identify the correct answer. Objective questions are some of the most common on tests, and they include True/False, Multiple Choice, and Matching questions. Below are some skills to help you with objective questions.

Strategies for T/F Questions

1. Carefully check each item in a series of items: a T/F question is only true when the entire statement is true. If one item in a series is false, the entire statement becomes FALSE. Items are separated by commas, so check each series items carefully.

2. Understand 100% and the in-between modifiers:
   - **Modifiers** – tell degree or frequency something occurs. There is a huge difference between when something always, sometimes, often, seldom, and never happens.
   - **100% modifiers** – indicate absolutes or total degree without any exceptions. 100% modifiers include all, every, only, always, everyone, best, worst, etc.
   - **In-between modifiers** – Indicate something occurs in varying degrees or frequency. In-between modifiers include some, most, a few, sometimes, often, usually, average, better, seldom, frequently, etc.

3. Look for relationship cues: words that signal the question that test your understanding of the relationship between two subjects.

4. Identify the impact of negatives: words or prefixes that carry the meaning of “no” or “not.”

5. Use essential test-taking strategies for T/F questions:
   - Read each statement carefully
   - Be sure you completely understand the statement
   - Pay close attention to key elements; items in a series, modifiers, definitions, relationship cues, and negatives
   - Be objective when you answer
   - Mark a statement true only when the statement is completely true
   - Do not add your reasoning or argument to the side of the question
   - Make a strong distinction between the way you write a T and an F
   - Use the four levels of response (12 Essential Test-Taking Skills handout)

Strategies for Multiple Choice Questions

1. Use the 3-step approach for answering multiple-choice questions
   - Finish the stem in your mind
   - Create T/F statements
   - Identify the distractors and select the answers

2. Carefully examine “Not” questions

3. Use essential test-taking strategies for multiple-choice questions (Same as #5 in T/F strategies)
4. Educated-Selection strategies for multiple-choice questions:
   - Select one of the middle numbers when numbers are the options
   - Select one of the look-alikes when two options are almost identical
   - Select the longest or the most inclusive option
   - Select the wild-shot guess, if there are no other clues
   - Select “all of the above” in specific situations

**Strategies for Matching Questions**

1. Examine the Matching Format Carefully
2. Work Systematically
3. Connect items in each column by making logical sentences
4. Write answer in every space