



Objective tests

Use this handout to help you prepare for multiple choice, true-false, match columns.

Preparing

Highlight emphasized topics. Note why these topics are important. Know how you'll be tested. Will you be asked questions that require you to recall specific facts? Understand concepts? Apply what you've learned to real-life scenarios? Prepare accordingly. Concentrate on vocabulary. Identify

terms/words used to represent specific concepts. Make flashcards and do frequent drills of the material. See if you can also put ideas in your own words. Compare and contrast. Construct charts, tables, diagrams or lists to summarize relationships.

Taking The Test

Review the entire test. Skim and develop a plan for your work. Allow time for questions that are worth more points. Reserve time to review your work and fix mistakes. Read carefully. Look for limits, how questions will be graded, and specific instructions (i.e., answer 3 of the 4 questions below).

Start strong. Begin working on an easier question to warm up but save time for the more difficult ones and those worth more points. Avoid overthinking. Interpret the questions literally and try to choose the answer you think the test maker intended. Keep your eye on the clock. Work quickly, check your time regularly, and adjust your speed if needed. Don't get stuck on one question at the cost of omitting another.

Analyzing After It's Over

Examine the questions that you missed or lost points for. Learn why the correct answer was more appropriate than yours. Were there areas of the test you were not prepared for? Investigate why you were not ready and create a strategy to tackle those areas. Did you know the answer, but fail to read carefully?

precise details, or main principles or application to new situations? Talk to your professor if you are not sure what to expect on the next test. Were you able to finish the test within the time given? Were you too anxious to focus on the question? Visit the Sanger Learning Center for help with test anxiety. Brainstorm other possible reasons for why you were unable to complete the exam. Develop a plan to work on these problems.

Gauge difficulty and amount of detail in the test questions. Did most of the questions concern

General questions

Multiple choice questions may seem easier because the answer is definitely on the page, but they can be tricky if you lack a plan of approach. Follow these steps to stay on track.

Read the stem (the statement or question). Cover the choices (the distracters) and formulate your own answer. Read each choice, even if the first choice matches your answer. There may be a better answer. Evaluate each choice against your formulated answer.

Read the stem & choice together as if reading a true-false question. If the choice makes the

statement false, cross it out. If two or more choices seem correct, find the differences between them. Relate the differences to the stem and decide which choice is better. Remember to check if your choice makes the stem statement true. Watch out for modifiers like not, except, always, never and only. Try these steps with this question to practice:

What percentage of UT students change their major at least once in college?

- A. 20%
- B. 85%
- C. 40%
- D. 65%



True-false questions

These questions tend to focus on details.

Ask yourself: Is every part of the statement true all of the time? If so, then the answer is True. If the statement has the words ALWAYS or NEVER,

can you think of an exception to the statement? If not, the answer is True. If you can think of an exception, then the answer is False.

Matching questions

These questions tend to focus on relationships between information or ideas. Begin with the longer column and look for a match in the shorter column of descriptions. For every match you make, cross out items in both columns unless more than one match is possible.

