

## **Educated Guesses**

Study skills guru Claude Olney of Arizona State University suggests using the following methods to help eliminate choices:

1. Multiple Choice. When 2 out of 4 choices are opposites, pick one of those 2 as the best guess.
2. B, C, and D answers are the best in 5 answer multiple choice questions.
3. Avoid pairs. If question 28 is known to be B, avoid guessing B in 27 or 29.
4. Non-answers (zero, none of the above, etc.) are usually poor guesses.
5. In questions asking for the most or the least, pick the answer next to the most or the least.
6. "All of the above" is generally a good guess.
7. Longest multiple choice answers are good guesses.
8. If 2 of the 4 choices are almost identical, pick the longer of the two.
9. If a few questions have five possible choices instead of four, pick number five.
10. If a question asks for a plural or singular answer make sure you pick the plural or the singular.
11. When limiting words are used (all, never, always, must, etc.) "false" is usually the better answer.
12. When general terms are used (most, some, usually, could, might, etc.) "true" is usually the better answer.
13. Exaggerated or complex answers are generally "false."
14. As you go along put check marks next to questions you're not sure of so you can quickly go back to them as time expires.
15. All fill-in-the-blanks should be answered. Your answer might be correct or you might receive partial credit.
16. With essay exams say as much as you can, but use short paragraphs and write legibly.
17. Answers often pop up in other questions. Keep that in mind.
18. First impressions are often best. When in doubt go with your initial response.
19. When a question is difficult to visualize draw it out.
20. Assume a possible answer, then work backwards to see if you are right.
21. Eliminate all possible wrong answers first then make an educated guess.
22. Sit in front of the class. Ambiguous questions can be cleared up much easier.
23. **READ THE QUESTION - ANSWER THE QUESTION.**
24. Stay until the end of the exam. Questions may be clarified by the instructor as an afterthought.