

## Five Kinds of Test Questions & Strategies for Answering Them

Type of Question	Examples		Test Taking Strategies
Matching	Match the titles with the correct descriptions:		
	Titles	Descriptions	
	<p>(c)1. <u>clean</u> farming</p> <p>(d)2. <u>contour</u> farming</p> <p>(e)3. crop rotation</p> <p>(b)4. <u>green</u> manuring</p> <p>(a)5. <u>strip</u> cropping</p>	<p>a. Planting a sloping field <u>alternately</u> with <u>rows</u> of corn, then rows of wheat, then rows of corn.</p> <p>b. <u>Plowing a crop under instead of harvesting</u> it.</p> <p>c. <u>Removing brush</u> and weeds along the fence between the fields.</p> <p>d. Planting around a <u>hillside in level rows</u> instead of planting up and down the hill.</p> <p>e. Planting a field <u>one</u> year with wheat, the <u>second</u> with oats, the <u>third</u> year with alfalfa, the fourth year with corn.</p>	<p>1. Use one list as the starting point for making all matches.</p> <p>2. If one list contains longer statements than the other list, use it as the starting point for making matches.</p> <p>3. Cross out items as you match them.</p> <p>4. Use sound reasoning and logical clues.</p>
True/False	1. <u>T</u> F College freshmen are more romantic than college seniors.		1. Assume statements are true. Tendency for there to be more true than false statements.
	2. T <u>F</u> More people speak <u>English than Spanish</u> and more people speak Russian than English.		2. All parts of the statement (the who, what, when, why,

		how, where) need to be true in order for the statement to be true.
	3. T <u>F</u> Patients should not ask doctors questions because this develops poor relationships between doctors and patients.	3. Reasons tend to be false. Look for words "because," "reason," and "since," etc.
	4. T <u>F</u> Laws do nothing to diminish discrimination.	4. Look for words commonly associated with false statements: never, always, only, inevitably, etc.
	5. <u>T</u> F Married couples who do not have children <u>tend to be</u> happier than married couples with children.	5. Look for words commonly associated with true statements; may, often, many, most, frequently, usually, etc.
	6. T <u>F</u> <u>Categorization</u> involves placing a word in several contexts in order to remember it. (Association)	6. Look for terms or names mismatched with inappropriate definitions or descriptions to test knowledge of terminology or key figures.
Sentence Completion	1. ( <u>Cervantes</u> ) wrote <u>Don Quixote</u> .	1. Usually only one answer is possible.
	2. ( <u>A Spanish author</u> ) wrote <u>Don Quixote</u> .	2. Guess. Write something, even a general response.
	3. More than ( <u>dollar amount</u> ) is spent on weddings each year in the United States.	3. Make the completed statement logically consistent. Determine what kind of info is required.
	4. A book may have a subject index and a ( <u>glossary</u> ).	4. Use grammatical cues and modifiers to help: an, an;

		singular/plural.
	5. A book may have a subject index and a <u>(table)</u> <u>(of)</u> <u>(contents)</u> .	5. Consider number and length of blanks to be filled in.
Multiple Choice	<p>1. Delayed speech in children can be a symptom of:</p> <p>a. mental retardation  b. neurological problems  c. hearing loss  d. emotional problems</p> <p>1. a, b, and c  2. a, c, and d  3. b, c, and d  4. All of the above</p> <p>(Answers) — Swanson's strategy</p> <p>a. "delayed speech in children"  b. What can cause delayed speech in children?  c. Answers may vary here. Brainstorm, remember anything you have read, heard or experience.  d. Circle choices that correspond to answers you thought of.  e. Eliminate choices that do not contain answers you are quite confident about.</p>	<p>1. Swanson's strategy:</p> <p>a. What is the subject or topic of the question stem?  b. What is the basic question implied by the question stem?  c. What is/are the answer(s) to the basic question (without looking at the choices)?  d. Do/does my answer(s) match any of the choices?  e. Which choices can be eliminated?  f. What is the correct answer?</p>
	<p>2a. Mentally healthy people</p> <p>A. never change their goals.  B. are always happy when alone.  <u>C.</u> are sometimes anxious or afraid  D. never examine their mistakes.</p> <p>2b. The words "dread" and "adder" are most similar with regard to their</p> <p>A. syntax.  <u>B.</u> letters.  C. phonemes.</p>	<p>2. These types of options tend to be distractors (wrong answers).</p> <p>a. Absolute statements  b. Unfamiliar-looking terms or phrases.  c. Jokes and insults.  d. High and low numbers</p>

	<p>D. morphemes.</p> <p>2c. A common reason students give for dropping out of college is that they <b>A.</b> decide that something else interests them more.</p> <p>B. don't like college teachers' dirty language.</p> <p>C. find that other students have inferior ability.</p> <p>D. lack desire to become educated people.</p> <p>2d. The mature human being has how many teeth?</p> <p>A. 15</p> <p><b>B.</b> 32</p> <p>C. 54</p> <p>D. 07</p>	
	<p>3a. Weight is likely to be most variable for a group of</p> <p>A. men who are all football linebackers.</p> <p>B. women who are all ballet dancers.</p> <p>C. people who are jockeys.</p> <p><b>D.</b> people who are college students</p> <p>3b. Silver is used to make</p> <p>A. jewelry.</p> <p>B. knives and forks.</p> <p>C. film for photography.</p> <p><b>D.</b> all of the above.</p> <p>3c. In the soviet Union, the manufacturing complex of the Moscow-Leningrad area produces mostly</p> <p><b>A.</b> consumer goods.</p> <p>B. capital goods.</p> <p>C. weapons for war.</p> <p>D. transport equipment.</p>	<p>3. These types of options tend to be correct answers.</p> <p>a. More complete or inclusive statements.</p> <p>b. "All of the above."</p> <p>c. One of two similar-looking statements.</p>
	<p>4. According to Freud, the three parts of the human consciousness are:</p> <p>A. the ego, the id, and the libido.</p> <p>B. the id, the alter ego, and the ego.</p>	<p>4. Read the question stem together with each of the choices as if it is a true/false statement. Cross out false statements to eliminate</p>

	<p><b>C.</b> the id, the ego, and the superego.  <b>D.</b> the child, the adult, and the parent.</p>	<p>choices.</p>
	<p>5. As a learning process, rehearsal includes all of the following <u>except</u>:</p> <p>A. rereading  B. reciting  <b>C.</b> reading</p>	<p>5. Look for key words in the stem: except, but, not, best, only, etc.</p>
	<p>6. The <u>best</u> example of the use of short-term memory is:</p> <p>A. reciting the key points in what you have just read.  <b>B.</b> repeating a phone number that was just told to you.  C. remembering the concept of categorization and discussing it on an essay exam.  D. remembering the name of a friend whom you have not seen for eight years.</p>	<p>6. If left with two choices which both seem correct, read the stem to pick up shades of meaning and focus on differences between choices; exercise logic &amp; inner dialogue.</p>
	<p>7. Charles Dicken's <i>Hard Times</i> deals with</p> <p>A. one difficult life of a factory worker.  B. the politics of the French Chateau country.  C. the court of King Edward III  D. the limitations of European existentialism.</p>	<p>7. Look for clues in the stem.</p>
<p>Essay</p>	<p>1. <u>Discuss</u> (2a) the <u>three major</u> (2b) characteristics of human language.  <u>Good answer:</u>  Human language has three unique qualities that distinguish it from animal communication. First, (2g) human language uses a limited number of sounds to produces thousands of utterances.</p>	<p>1. General procedure:  a. Read all questions.  b. If there is a choice of questions, decide which one(s) to answer. Circle the number(s).  c. Before writing the answer to any question, jot down key</p>

Second, (2g) human language does not imitate what has been heard. The human being has the capacity to generate a sentence never heard before.

Finally, (2g) human language can discuss what is not there. That is, human beings can discuss the past, present, and future as well as ideas that can not be seen.

(Note how the paragraph directly addresses the question. The topic sentence states that there are three characteristics of human language. The following sentences list these and discuss them. the transitions direct the reader to these characteristics.)

Poor answer:

Human language has three qualities. Human language does not say very much. Also, human language uses sentences. Humans can also discuss the invisible. Philosophers have spent centuries discussing what exists only in the mind.

(This paragraph lacks specificity and organization. The topic sentence is too general and the details which support it are vague. The last sentence digresses.)

words and phrases for each question you will answer.

2. For each individual question:

- a. Identify the key instruction words; underline these.
- b. Decide how many parts the question has.
- c. Plan answer based on key words already jotted down; make outline or recall pattern.
- d. The first sentence in the answer should use phrasing from the question.
- e. Write the paragraph(s) required; each paragraph should have a topic sentence.
- f. Add conclusion or summary if answer is several paragraphs.
- g. Number or letter major details or examples.
- h. check to see if all parts of the question are answered & that there is sufficient detail.
- i. Proof read for grammar, spelling, omitted words, etc.