

TOEFL® Strategy

Winning Multiple Choice Strategies for the TOEFL® Exam



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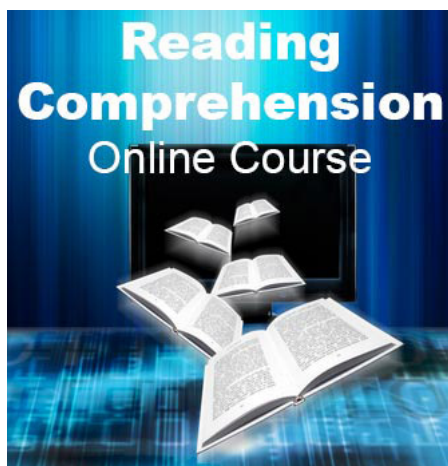
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Contents

6	Getting Started	
	Test Strategy	8
	Multiple-Choice Quick Tips	11
15	Answering Multiple-Choice Step-by-Step	
	Strategy Practice Questions	19
	Answers to Strategy Questions	39
52	Reading Comprehension Practice Questions	
	Answer Key	66
92	How to Write an Essay	
	Common Essay Mistakes - Example 1	101
	Common Essay Mistakes - Example 2	103
	Writing Concisely	105
	Avoiding Redundancy	107
115	How to Take an Oral Exam	
	Preparing for an Oral Exam	115
119	How to Prepare for a Test	
124	How to Take a Test	
	Reading the Instructions	124
	How to Take a Test - The Basics	125
	In the Test Room – What you MUST do!	130
	Avoid Anxiety Before a Test	134
	Common Test-Taking Mistakes	136
139	Conclusion	

Getting Started with the TOEFL®

CONGRATULATIONS! By deciding to take the TOEFL®, you have taken the first step toward a great future! Of course, there is no point in taking this important examination unless you intend to do your best to earn the highest grade that you possibly can. That means getting yourself organized and discovering the best approaches, methods and strategies to master the material. Yes, that will require real effort and dedication on your part, but if you are willing to focus your energy and devote the study time necessary, before you know it you will be finished the exam with a great mark!

We know that taking on a new endeavour can be a scary, and it is easy to feel unsure of where to begin. That's where we come in. This study guide is designed to help you improve your test-taking skills, show you a few tricks and increase both your competency and confidence.

The TOEFL® Exam

The Test of English as a Foreign Language® (TOEFL®), designed and administered at more than 4,500 test centers in 180 countries by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). The TOEFL® is an Internet-based Test, or iBT. The official site for the test is <https://www.ets.org/toefl>

Note-taking (paper would provided by the center) is allowed during the test and only pencil or pen can be carried to the center. All notes are collected after the test.

You cannot take the test more than once every 12 days.

Registration

Register online on <https://toefl-registration.ets.org/TOEFL-Web/extISERLogonPrompt.do> or by phone or mail – download forms https://www.ets.org/s/toefl/pdf/iBT_reg_form.pdf

The test fees vary based on location and country. For test-takers in North America, depending on your province or state, you can expect to pay from \$190 – \$250. Test-takers in Asia or Europe can expect to pay around \$200. Refer to the ETS site for prices in your area.

The following documents are required for registration

- A government-issued valid national/state/province identity card that is issued and recognized by the country,
- Recent photograph
- Signature
- ID proof must be presented at the center before test.

The Subjects

The TOEFL® four sections Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking. The language tested is the type of language found in an academic environment.

There is a 10-minute break between the reading and listening tests and the writing and speaking tests.

Format is as follows:

Reading: 3-4 passages; 12-14 questions each; Total 60-80 minutes.

Listening: 4-6 lectures; 6 questions each; and 2-3 conversations; 5 questions each; Total 60-90 minutes

Ten-minute break

Speaking: 6 tasks; 2 independent and 4 integrated; Total 20 minutes

Answering Multiple-Choice Step-by-Step

HERE IS A TEST QUESTION:

H Which of the following is a helpful tip for taking a multiple-choice test?

- a. Answering “B” for all questions.
- b. Eliminate all answers that you know cannot be true.
- c. Eliminate all answers that seem like they might be true.
- d. Cheat off your neighbor.

If you answered B, you are correct. Even if you are not positive about the answer, try to eliminate as many choices as possible. Think of it this way: If every item on your test has four possible answers, and if you guess on one of those four answers, you have a one-in-four chance (25%) of getting it right. This means you should get one question right for every four that you guess.

However, if you can get rid of two answers, then your chances improve to one-in-two chances, or 50%. That means you will get a correct answer for every two that you guess.

So much for an obvious tip for improving your multiple-choice score. There are many other tips that you may or may not have considered, which will give your grade a boost. Remember, though, that none of these tips are infallible. In fact, many test-writers know these tips and deliberately write questions that will confound your system. Usually, however, you will do better on the test if you put these tips into practice.

By familiarizing yourself with these tips, you increase your chances and who knows; you might just get a lucky break and increase your score by a few points!

Answering Step-by-Step

It might seem complicated and unnecessary to follow a formula for answering a multiple-choice question. After you have practiced this formula for a while, though, it will come naturally and will not take any time at all. Try to follow these steps below on each question.

Step 1. Cover up the answers while you read the question.

See the material in your mind's eye and try to envision what the correct answer is before you expose the answers on the answer sheet.

Step 2. Uncover the responses.

Step 3. Eliminate or Estimate. Cross out every choice that you know is ridiculous, absurd or clearly wrong. Then work with the answers that remain.

Step 4. Watch for distracters. A distracter is an answer that looks very similar to the correct answer, but is put there to trip you up. If you see two answers that are strikingly similar, the chances are good that one of them is correct. For instance, if you are asked the term for the distance around a square, and two of the responses are “periwinkle” and “perimeter,” you can guess that one of these is probably correct, since the words look similar (both start with “peri-”). Guess one of these two and your chances of correcting selecting “perimeter” are 50/50. More on this below.

Step 5. Check! If you see the answer that you saw in your mind, put a light check-mark by it and then see if any of the other choices are better. If not, mark that response as your answer.

Step 6. If all else fails, guess. If you cannot envision the correct response in your head, or figure it out by reading the passage, and if you are left totally clueless as to what the answer should be, guess.

Watch out for this strategy if the test you are taking penalizes for wrong answers. Only a few tests do this, and if so, then guessing is NOT a recommended strategy!

Answer Sheet

	A	B	C	D	E		A	B	C	D	E
1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	26	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	27	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	28	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	29	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	30	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	31	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	32	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	33	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	34	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	35	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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12	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	37	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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24	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						
25	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						

Multiple-Choice Strategy

Practice Questions

THE FOLLOWING ARE DETAILED STRATEGIES FOR ANSWERING MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS WITH PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR EACH STRATEGY.

Answers appear following this section with a detailed explanation and discussion on each strategy and question, plus tips and analysis.

Strategy 1 - Locate Keywords

For every question, figure out exactly what the question is asking by locating key words that are in the question. Underline the keywords to clarify your thoughts and keep on track.

Directions: Read the passage below, and answer the questions using this strategy.

Free-range is a method of farming where domesticated animals roam freely, or relatively freely, rather than being kept in a pen or cage. Free-range can mean two different things depending on who you talk to. One definition, when talking to a farmer, is a technical description of a farming method. You may have seen free-range or free-run eggs in the supermarket. This is a consumer oriented definition. There are numerous benefits to farmers who practice free-range farming. Certification as a free-range producer allows farmers to charge higher prices and reduce feed costs. That's not all - free-range methods also improve the general health of animals, which produces a higher-quality product. In addition, free-range farming allows multiple crops on the same land - another significant savings for farmers. Free-range certification is different from organic certification.

1. The free-range method of farming

- a. Uses a minimum amount of fencing to give animals more room.
- b. Can refer to two different things.
- c. Is always a very humane method.
- d. Only allows for one crop at a time.

2. Free-range farming is practiced

- a. To obtain free-range certification.
- b. To lower the cost of feeding animals.
- c. To produce higher quality product.
- d. All of the above.

3. Free-range farming:

- a. Can mean either farmer described or consumer described methods.
- b. Is becoming much more popular in many areas.
- c. Has many limits and causes prices to go down.
- d. Is only done to make the animals happier and healthier.

4. Free-range certification is most important to farmers because:

- a. Free-range livestock are less expensive to feed.
- b. The price of the product is higher.
- c. Both a and b
- d. The animals are kept in smaller enclosures, so more can be produced.

Strategy 6 - Opposites

For every question, no matter what type, look at answers that are opposites. When two answers are opposites, the odds increase that one of them is the correct answer.

Directions: Read the passage below, and answer the questions using this strategy.

Smallpox is a highly infectious disease unique to humans, caused by two virus, Variola Major and Minor. The Latin name for smallpox is Variola or Variola Vera, which means spotted.

In 1980, the World Health Organization certified that Smallpox had been eradicated. Smallpox is sometimes confused with Chicken Pox, however, they are a different virus.

The smallpox virus lives in the small blood vessels in the mouth, throat and skin. This gives a distinct rash in these areas, which turn into blisters. After being exposed to the Smallpox virus, symptoms do not appear for 12 to 17 days.

Variola Major is much more serious virus, with a mortality rate of 30 – 35%. Variola Minor is milder, with a mortality rate of only 1%. Variola Minor has a number of common names, including, alastrim, cottonpox, milkpox, whitepox, and Cuban itch.

Variola Major causes several long-term complications such as scars, commonly on the face, which occurs in about 65 – 85% of the survivors. Other complications, including blindness and deformities from arthritis and other complications are much less common, about 2 – 5%.

20. Smallpox

- a. Effects all mammals, including humans
- b. Is caused by a bacteria from contact with dead flesh
- c. Was called the great pox during the fifteenth century
- d. Only affects humans, although other species can carry and transmit the virus

21. Smallpox caused by Variola major has a

- a. Thirty to thirty five percent survival rate
- b. Sixty percent mortality rate
- c. Thirty to thirty five percent mortality rate
- d. Sixty percent survival rate

22. Smallpox caused by Variola minor is

- a. Much more severe, with a greater number of pox and more scarring
- b. Much less severe, with fewer pox and less scarring
- c. Characterized because there are no pox
- d. So minor that no treatment or medical attention is needed

23. Smallpox can be fatal

- a. In between thirty and thirty five percent of those who catch the virus, depending on the type
- b. In between thirty and sixty five percent of those who catch the virus, depending on the type
- c. When no medical treatment is available
- d. Only in developing countries where medical care is poor

Answers to Sample Multiple-Choice Strategy Questions

Strategy 1 - Keywords in the question tell what the question is asking

1. B

The question asks about the free range *method* of farming. Here method refers to *type* of farming. “Method” here is the keyword and can be marked or underlined.

2. D

The Question is, “Free-range farming is *practiced* ...” The keyword here is “practiced.” Looking at the choices, which all start with “to,” it is clear the answer will be about *why* free range ... Also notice that one choice is “All of the above,” which here, is the correct answer. However, when “All of the above” is an option, this is a potential Elimination Strategy. Simply find one choice that is incorrect and you can use Strategy 5 - Elimination to eliminate two choices and increase your odds from one in four, to one in two.

3. A

The question is, “Free range farming husbandry ...” From the question, and the *lack* of keywords, together with the choices presented, the answer will be a definition free range farming husbandry.

4. C

The question is, “Free-range certification is *most important* to farmers because ... “ The keywords here are “most important.” Circle the keywords to keep them clear in your mind. Be careful to choose the best possible answer.

Strategy 6 - Opposites

If there are opposites, one of them is generally the correct answer. If it helps, make a table that lays out the different options and the correct option will become clear.

20. D

Notice that choices A and D are opposites. Referring to the text, “Smallpox is a highly infectious disease unique to humans ...” eliminates choice A. Also notice choices B and C are not mentioned in the text and can be eliminated right away.

21. C

Notice that all the choices are opposites. 30% - 35% mortality, or survival rate, or 60%. Therefore, the task is to review the text, looking for 30% or 60%, survival or mortality, stay clear, and do not get confused. Sometimes making notes or a table can help to clarify.

The question is asking about percent, so it is easy and fast to skim the passage for a percent sign.

The first percent sign is in the fourth paragraph, 30% - 35%. Write this in the margin. Next, see what this percent refers to, which is the mortality rate. Write “mortality” next to 30% - 35%. Now, working backwards, see what the 30% - 35% mortality rate refers to. At the beginning of that sentence, is Variola Major.

30% - 35%	Mortality	V. Major
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Now we have a clear understanding of what the passage is saying, which we have retrieved quickly and easily, and hopefully will not be confused by the different choices.

Choices A and B can be eliminated right away. Choice C looks correct. Check choice D quickly, and confirm that it is incorrect. Choice C is the correct answer.

22. B

Choices A and B are opposites. Is Variola Minor more or less severe, with more or fewer pox, and more or less scarring? The other two choices, “no pox” and “no treatment” can be eliminated quickly. Either choice A or B are going to be wrong.

Make a quick table like this:

Major - more serious - scars, blindness

Minor - milder

The passage does not mention scarring from Variola minor, but we can infer that it is milder. Looking at the options, choice A is clearly talking about Variola major, and we can infer that choice B is talking about Variola minor and is the correct answer. We can confirm our inference from the text.

Also note the words, ‘major’ and ‘minor.’ Which gives a clue concerning severity, and the elimination of choice A.

23. A

Choices A and B are not exactly opposite, but very close and designed to confuse if you do not read them properly. How many people die from the virus? Between 30% and 35%? Or between 35% and 60%? Scan the text with these numbers in mind.

This question is asking about a percent, so quickly scan the passage for a percent sign, which first appears in the second paragraph. Working back, confirm that the percent figures that you quickly found is related to mortality, which it is.

Practice Questions Answer Sheet

	A	B	C	D	E		A	B	C	D	E
1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	21	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	22	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	23	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	24	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						
6	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						
7	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						
8	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						
9	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						
10	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						
11	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						
12	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						
13	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						
14	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						
15	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						
16	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						
17	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						
18	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						
19	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						
20	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						

Listening Comprehension Answer Sheet

	A	B	C	D	E		A	B	C	D	E
1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	21	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	22	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	23	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	24	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	25	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						
7	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						
8	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						
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14	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						
15	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						
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20	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						

Directions: Scan the QR code below with any smartphone or tablet for an audio recording of the listening comprehension passages below. Or, have someone read them to you. Listen carefully to the passages and answer the questions that follow.

What is a QR Code?

A QR code looks like a barcode and it's used as a shortcut to link to content online using your phone's camera, saving you from typing lengthy addresses into your mobile browser.

Questions 1 - 4 refer to the following passage.

Passage 1 - Caterpillars

Butterflies and moths have a three stage life cycle. Caterpillars are the first or larval stage. Caterpillars can be either herbivores, feeding mostly on plants, or carnivores, feeding on other insects. Caterpillars eat continuously. Once they are too big for their body, they shed or molt their skin.

Some caterpillars have symbiotic relationships with other insects. A symbiotic relationship is where different species work together in a way that is either harmful or helpful. Symbiotic relationships are critical to many species and ecosystems.

Some caterpillars and ants have a symbiotic or mutual relationship where both benefit. Ants give some protection, and caterpillars provide the ants with honeydew nectar.

Ants and caterpillars communicate by vibrations through the soil as well as grunting and squeaking. Humans are not able to hear these communications.



Scan for audio

1. What do most larvae spend their time doing?

- a. Eating
- b. Sleeping
- c. Communicating with ants.
- d. None of the above

2. Are all caterpillars herbivores?

- a. Yes
- b. No, some eat insects

3. What benefit do larvae get from association with ants?

- a. They do not receive any benefit.
- b. Ants give them protection.
- c. Ants give them food.
- d. Ants give them honeydew secretions.

4. Do ants or larvae benefit most from association?

- a. Ants benefit most
- b. Larvae benefit most
- c. Both benefit about the same
- d. Neither benefits

Conversation 4 - Outside

Questions 25 refers to the following conversation.

Narrator: Sarah, Peter, Tom and Carol walk outside.
They talk about the dinner.

Peter: That is a good restaurant.

Tom: They have good music, too.

Sarah: I enjoy the music.

Tom: So do I!

Carol: The waiter is friendly, too.

Tom: It is expensive but I like it.



Scan for Audio

25. What are the friends talking about?

- a. The weather
- b. Work
- c. The weekend
- d. The restaurant

Answer Key

1. A

Caterpillars spend most of their time eating.

2. B

Some caterpillars are herbivores, others eat other insects (carnivores).

3. B

From the passage, the ants provide some degree of protection.

4. C

The association is mutual, so both benefit.

25. D

They are talking about the restaurant.

How to Write an Essay

Writing an essay can be a difficult process, especially if you have time constraints such as during an exam. Here are three simple steps to help you to write a solid, well thought out essay:

1. **Brainstorm** potential themes and general ideas for your essay.
2. **Outline** your essay step by step, including subheadings for ease of understanding.
3. **Write** your essay carefully being aware of proper grammar and sentence structure.

Brainstorming

You should first spend time thinking about the general subject of the essay. If the essay is asking a question, you must make sure to answer this fully in your essay. You may find it helpful to highlight key words in your assignment or use a simple spider diagram to jot down key ideas.

Example

Read the following information and complete the following assignment:

Joseph Conrad is a Polish author who lived in England for most of his life and wrote a huge amount of English literature. Much of his work was completed during the height of the British Empire's colonial imperialism.

Assignment: What impact has Joseph Conrad had on modern society? Present your point of view on the matter and support it with evidence. Your evidence may include reasoning, logic, examples from readings, your own experience, and observations.

Example

In conclusion, Robert Frost's poem "The Road Not Taken" deals with themes of fate, regret, sorrow, and the many possibilities our decisions hold. Consider how easy it would be to upturn your life today if you made a few decisions you normally wouldn't. Frost's poem forces us to consider the twists and turns our lives take. Perhaps with a sigh, we could all think about the choices that for us have made all the difference.

This conclusion is consistent with the rest of the essay in terms of style. There are no new ideas introduced and it has referred to the main points in the assignment title.

Finally, a full read-through is necessary before submission. It only takes a couple of minutes to read through and pick up any errors. Remember to double space so you have room for any corrections. You can also leave spacing at the end of each paragraph in case you need to add additional sentences.

Common Essay Mistakes - Example 1

Whether the topic is love or action, reality television shows damage society. Viewers witness the personal struggles of strangers, and they experience an outpouring of emotions in the name of entertainment. This can be dangerous on many levels. Viewers become numb to real emotions and values. Run the risk of not interpreting a dangerous situation correctly. 1 The reality show participant is also at risk because they are completely exposed. 2 The damage to both viewers and participants leads to the destruction of our healthy societal values.

Romance reality shows are dangerous to the participants and contribute to the emotional problems witnessed in society today as we set up a system built on equality and respect, shows like "The Bachelor" tear it down. 3 In front of millions of viewers every week, young women compete for a man. Twenty-five women claim to be in love with a man they just met. The man is reduced to an object they compete

How to Take an Oral Exam

About oral exams

For many students, the experience of taking an oral exam is one that is very different to taking a written exam, although you may find that preparation for an oral exam is similar to a written exam.

An oral exam allows you to demonstrate to the assessor a variety of skills including:

- Speaking skills
- Presentation skills
- Communication skills

There are two typical types of oral exams, formal and informal. A formal oral exam will usually have a set of questions that have been prepared beforehand and these are often 'competitive' exams. An informal oral exam often has less structure and gives you a chance to elaborate on your answers.

Your assessor may construct a question based on an answer that you have just given to an earlier question and your assessor may be looking for you to demonstrate other skills in your answers, such as problem solving skills.

- Questions in oral exams are usually open-ended, which means that they require evaluative answers, not just six or seven words.
- Sometimes an oral exam will look for how much knowledge you may have around your subject.

Preparing for an Oral Exam

There are two main steps for preparing for an oral exam. They are revise and practice.

How to Prepare for a Test

MOST STUDENTS HIDE THEIR HEADS AND PROCRASTINATE WHEN FACED WITH PREPARING FOR AN EXAMINATION, HOPING THAT SOMEHOW THEY WILL BE SPARED THE AGONY OF TAKING THAT TEST, ESPECIALLY IF IT IS A BIG ONE THAT THEIR FUTURES RELY ON. Avoiding the all-important test is what many students do best and unfortunately, they suffer the consequences because of their lack of preparation.

Test preparation requires strategy. It also requires dedication and persistence. It is the perfect training ground for anyone planning a professional life. Besides having several reliable strategies, successful students also have a clear goal and know how to accomplish it. These tried and true concepts have worked well and will make your test preparation easier.

The Study Approach.

Take responsibility for your own test preparation.

It is a common, and big mistake, to link your studying to someone else's. Study partners are great, but only if they are reliable. It is your job to be prepared for the test, even if a study partner fails you. Do not allow others to distract you from your goals.

Prioritize the time available to study.

When do you learn best, early in the day or in the dark of night? Does your mind absorb and retain information most efficiently in small blocks of time, or do you require long stretches to get the most done? It is important to figure out the best blocks of time available to you when you can be the most productive. Try to consolidate activities to allow for longer periods of study time.

How to Take a Test

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT TAKING AN EXAM IS STRESSFUL, BUT IT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE THAT BAD! There are a few simple things that you can do to increase your score on any type of test. Take a look at these tips and consider how you can incorporate them into your study time.

Reading the Instructions

This is the most basic point, but one that, surprisingly, many students ignore and it can cost them big time! Since reading the instructions is one of the most common, and 100% preventable mistakes, we have a whole section just on reading instructions.

Pay close attention to the sample questions. Almost all standardized tests offer sample questions, paired with their correct solutions. Go through these to make sure that you understand what they mean and how they arrived at the correct answer. Do not be afraid to ask the test supervisor for help with a sample that confuses you, or instructions that you are unsure of.

Tips for Reading the Question

We could write pages and pages of tips just on reading the test questions. Here are the ones that will help you the most.

- **Think first.** Before you look at the answer, read and think about the question. It is best to try to come up with the correct answer before you look at the options given. This way, when the test-writer tries to trick you with a close answer, you will not fall for it.
- **Make it true or false.** If a question confuses you, then look at each answer option and think of it as a “true” “false” question. Select the one that seems most likely to be “true.”

Conclusion

CONGRATULATIONS! You have made it this far because you have applied yourself diligently to practicing for the exam and no doubt improved your potential score considerably! Passing your up-coming exam is a huge step in a journey that might be challenging at times but will be many times more rewarding and fulfilling. That is why being prepared is so important.

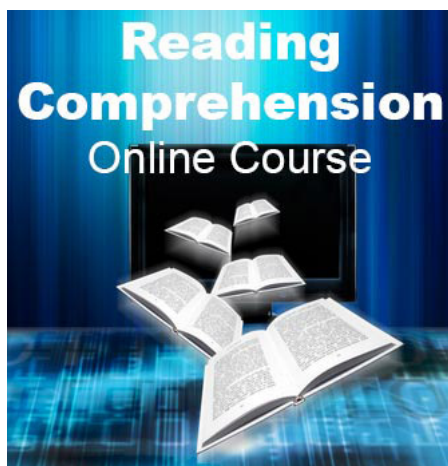
Good Luck!

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