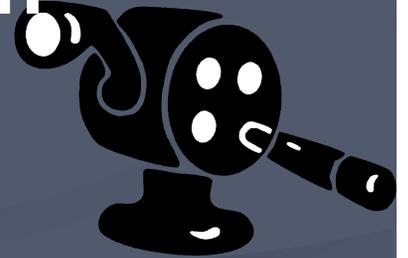


Test Taking Hints and Strategies for Standardized Tests

On The Eve Before Testing

Go To Bed Early

- Put a few number 2 pencils with erasers in your backpack.
- Solve family/friend problems before the testing date.
- Talk to your parents about any concerns that you might have about the test.



The Morning of Testing

- Start your day as you always do.
- Eat a good breakfast and don't drink a large beverage before hand. Duh!
- Get to school a few minutes earlier than you usually do.
- Know what classroom you are to report to.
- Think Positive!

Once You Enter Your Classroom

- Relax!
- Ask for procedural help when directions allow, your teacher is there to help you.
- The STAR-CST test is based on California State Content Standards. You have already studied most of the material you will see on the test.

During The Test

- If you do not understand the directions or are unsure, ask for help.
- Read the question and *all* answer choices before marking anything.

Pace Yourself

- Answer the easiest questions first.
- Don't spend too much time on any one question. Do your best and then move on.
- Be sure to go back to those questions you skipped.

Multiple Choice Questions

- Do not change your answers unless you are very uncertain about your first answer choice.
- Try to answer every question. Make the most intelligent guess you can.

The Process of Elimination

- After you have been through all of the questions once, go back and find the questions you skipped. Look at all of the answers, use your knowledge to eliminate obvious wrong answers.



**I know C isn't
the answer!**

The Process of Elimination-continued

- If you can eliminate two wrong answers, your chance of choosing the right answer is greater.



Answering Questions

- Don't guess blindly, but if you have time to think about the best answer choice, make it!



Key Words

- Find **key words** or **phrases** in the question that will help you choose the correct answer.



Don't be fooled!

- Make sure you understand what the question is asking.
- Be sure you are responding to the question that is being asked.

Reading Passages

- If the test requires you to read passages and then answer questions about what you read,

read the questions first

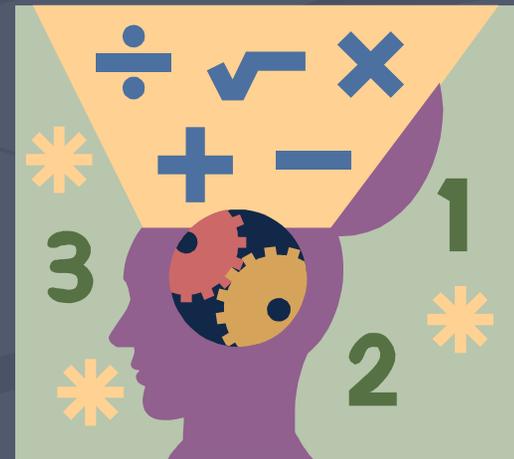
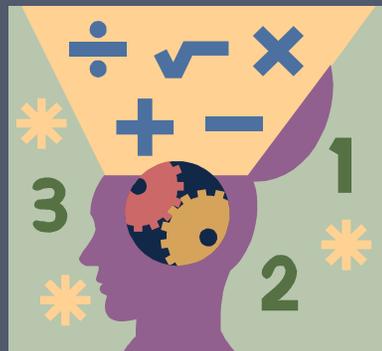
- By doing this, you will know what you are looking for as you read. This will also help with your testing pace.

Reading Passages

- When there are several questions about a reading passage or chart, look for **clues** in other questions that will help you with those items about which you are unsure.

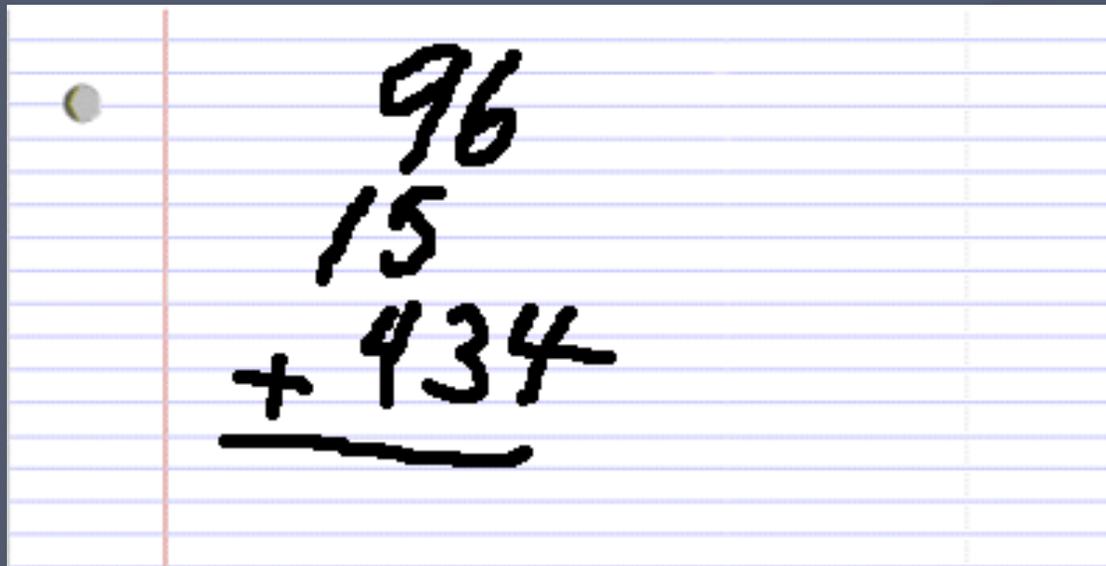
Math Computation

- When using scratch paper on a math test, double check to make sure that you have copied the problem correctly from the test booklet!



Math Computation

- Line up place value correctly on your scratch paper (thousands, hundreds, tens, ones) or the answer will be incorrect.



A photograph of a piece of lined paper with a handwritten addition problem. The numbers are written in black ink. The first number is 96, the second is 15, and the third is 434. A horizontal line is drawn under the 434. The numbers are not aligned by place value: the 96 is shifted to the right, the 15 is shifted further to the right, and the 434 is aligned with the 15. This misalignment illustrates the concept discussed in the text above.

$$\begin{array}{r} 96 \\ 15 \\ + 434 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Math Computation

- If your answer does not match one of the choices, reread the problem, recopy the numbers, and try solving it again.



A Matter of Time

- If any time remains, spend it on those questions about which you know nothing or almost nothing.
- As you go back through, do not change all answers.
- *Remember: Your first guess is usually right.*

It's About Time

- Don't spend too much time rewriting or obsessing about neatness.
- Don't worry if you run out of time. There is no prize for finishing first!



Skip, Return, Check

- If you finish early, check to make sure you have answered all questions.
- Once you have finished, please remain quiet as others will still be taking the test.



Final Tips

- Fill in bubbles fully, write neatly, and erase stray marks.
- Double-check the test number in your test booklet against the answer sheet every few questions to be sure you haven't gotten on the wrong number.





The Death Grip

- If your arm tires during testing it is probably due to the grip that you have on your pencil.
- Relax the grip and give those muscles a break.
- Do not do arm exercises during testing as this disturbs others.

Thank you, Mr. Know-it-all!

- Remember *it's okay not to know everything* — unlike class tests, these tests will have some questions designed to challenge the limits of your knowledge

Why Do We Take These Tests?

- The STAR-CST test is based on the California State Standards. This test is designed to help teachers and administrators determine areas of strength and areas to improve upon.
- We need your best effort on the STAR test!
- The results of your test are used to calculate your school's API score. Our district has the three highest high school API scores in East County!
- The API score is also used to rank schools throughout the state.
- DO YOUR BEST!!