

Test taking strategies for Nursing School

To be most successful on nursing school tests, you must know the material and understand how to apply the information on a test. Good test taking strategies do NOT replace knowledge, but can enhance your ability to do well on tests when you are well informed.

Use good test taking strategies; **use them for EVERY question**. Take your time answering the question.

- 1. **Cover your answers.** Read the question; read every word.
- 2. What is the key concepts or topic of the question?
- 3. Look for the **KEY** words. Focus on words such as most, least, best, initial, etc. What is the question asking?
- 4. Try to answer the question **before** you look at the answers. This will allow you/your brain to focus on ONE topic.
- 5. **Uncover the answer choices.** Read them for content, not with the intent of answering the question. Read EVERY word.
- 6. **Eliminate** the choices you know are wrong. You may have thought of some of these when you were thinking about possible answers. (I know I wouldn't do.....)
- 7. After you have eliminated one or two answer choices, go back and look at the question. What are the key words? What is the question asking?
- 8. Choose your answer. Usually your first choice is best. Do NOT change your answer, unless you misread the question.
- 9. Before hitting submit, **be sure your answer choice really answers the question**.

Finally, use **positive self talk**. You have studied and you are prepared. Tell yourself that you are intelligent and will be successful.

General suggestions:

After you login to the test and time has started, do an information dump. Write down important information you are afraid you may forget. You can refer to it during the test.

If a test question reminds you of important information, write it down on your scratch paper, again, refer to it as needed.

Use your test time wisely. You have specific amount for time per question, refer to your watch and plan accordingly. Do not rush. Answer ONE question at a time. Give every question your complete attention.

Tips compiled from Evolve Case Study module_Basic Principles of Nursing Practice to Guide your Critical Thinking and Silvestri, L. (2010) *Strategies for Test Success: Passing Nursing School and the NCLEX Exam*. Elsevier: St. Louis, MO