***Math Test Taking Tips***

***Tips for the SAT and Beyond***

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| ***Category*** | ***Specific Tip*** |
| **CAREFULLY READ** | * Carefully read each question - be sure you know what it’s asking and do the work accordingly. * Carefully read each answer choice - remember, there will be answer choices that ‘sound good,’ but are incorrect (‘distractors’). |
| **SKIPPING QUESTIONS?** | * If you don’t know how to do a question, move on.   + Don’t get stuck on a question you don’t know how to begin.   + Your brain will continue working on that problem in the ‘background,’ and you may be able to go back to it later with a new idea.   + Circle the questions you skip. * If you do skip a question, be careful to put the next answer in the correct spot on the answer sheet. * Once you’ve had a chance to go back to the questions you skipped, and you still don’t know (or you’re running out of time) - guess.   + There is no guessing penalty on the SAT!!! So don’t leave it blank.   + Try to eliminate some of the answer choices first and then guess.   + If you can’t eliminate any answer choices, guess anyway. Choose the same answer every time you make a blind guess. |
| **CHECKING WORK** | * Does the answer you get make sense in the context of the problem? If not, you need to go back and rework the problem. * **Always double-check your answers** if you have time at the end of the section**.** When you initially make your way through each section, underline questions that you’re unsure about so you can double-check strategically. * If you have lots of extra time, you might even go through and check every single one of your answers. This way you’ll pick up on any careless mistakes you might have made if you were rushing. |
| ***Category*** | ***Specific Tip*** |
| **KNOW HOW TO ENTER THE ANSWERS** | * There are no negative answers in the student produced response math section. So if you come up with a negative answer, you'll need to try again. * You're able to enter a short answer in any column provided. For example, .8 can be entered in two columns with the “.” in one and the “8” in the next. * If your answer ends up being a repeating decimal, such as .4444444, just enter as many decimal points as you can in the grid provided. * Even though you can enter an equivalent decimal for your answer instead of a fraction, there is no reason to as it just wastes time. * Do not provide mixed numbers as answers (the scanner can’t read it). For example, if your answer is 2 3/4, you need to change it to 11/4 or 2.75. |
| **GENERAL TEST TAKING TIPS** | * Use your test booklet.You're allowed to write in it, so you can cross out answers you know are wrong and do scratch work. * Learn how to use your calculator effectively now:Being able to use your calculator is crucial for some of the questions on the calculator section of the math section.   + Not all questions require a calculator and using it on simple problems might take away time you could use on harder questions. * You may or may not see the same letter or a pattern of letters come up in your multiple choice answers. This does not mean you are wrong. * On a multiple choice question, you can try working backwards from the answer, especially when solving equations. * On multiple choice, you can try to eliminate some answer choices. If two choices mean the same thing, they are both wrong (because there is only one correct answer). * Budget your time. |