

TEST I.Q. Suggestions

The information is organized by reading down each column of the TEST I.Q. chart. The goal: to provide more information to keep you thinking about the test skills you may need to practice.

T1 column

T1a - Get a good night's sleep before the test.

Cramming the night before a test may be counter-productive if you stay up late and go into the test tired. Instead, (1) reread the materials to be covered and (2) reread and answer the unit questions before going to bed at your usual time.

T1b - Pace yourself if the test has a time limit.

Look through the test. Gauge which sections will take more time and allow for that as possible.

T1c - Write your responses clearly and carefully

For written answers: Be certain you ANSWER the questions by restating key words in your answer.

T1d - Mark tough questions with a faint line and return later to answer them.

Go back before you move to a new section of the test. Erase the faint line and answer the questions to the best of your ability, then move on.

T1e - Eat a healthy breakfast. Carry a healthy snack and water if allowed.

It's good to "feed your brain" before and during the test. Rehydrate part way through the test.

T1f - CHECK that you've answered every question before you hand in your test.

Ask if guesses are suggested or if it is best to leave difficult questions unanswered. (Sometimes wrong answers count against you more than unanswered ones!)

E column

Ea - Mark all answer bubbles carefully

Fill them in properly so the scan machine will pick up your answer. Scribbles and extra marks on the page may lead to your correct answer being considered wrong.

Eb - Block out distractions.

Sit where light and activity outside a window will not pull you away from the test. If noise bothers you, ask permission to wear a headset during the test.

Ec - Read for the main idea.

Most paragraphs address the main idea in the topic (first) sentence. Ask yourself: What was the main idea of what I just read? Not certain? Go back and read it again.

Ed - Read the questions before you begin reading the selection.

Knowing the question you will be answering helps you focus on finding details to help answer as you read.

Ee - Use your critical thinking skills.

Remember details from your past experiences and readings.

Understand what's asked of you: Interpret, Classify, Compare, Infer.

Apply what you know.

Analyze differences and attributes related to the topic.

Evaluate what will make your point clear or what creates the best response.

Create a well-organized answer/solution (keep supporting evidence in mind).

Ef - TRUE/FALSE Questions - Use logic and first impressions.

What makes sense? Often your first impressions are better than worrying over and rereading the questions again and again.

S column

Sa - Breathe deeply between questions.

It adds oxygen to your brain.

Sb - Use logic when you think about your answer.

Does the answer makes sense? Watch out for words like always, never, and every.

If two choices are very similar, often both are wrong answers.

Words like sometimes, usually, may be part of the true answers.

Sc - RELAX

Loosen any tension in your body by moving you head and arms in slow circles and side-to-side movements.

Take in several deep breaths and give yourself a pep talk to encourage yurself.

Sd - Read the text TWICE before you answer the questions.

Se - Answer every question to the best of your ability.

If you feel stumped, start by answering the easy questions first. Reread your answers and ask yourself: Did I answer the question that was asked?

Sf - Understand the test jargon.

Listen carefully to the teacher's explanations during practice tests. Ask questions.

T2 column

T2a - Read each direction twice before beginning each section.

Look for key words

T2b - Wear comfy location-appropriate clothes.

Now is not the time to wear tight clothing or ragged outfits. Wear what would be appropriate to wear to school or to a meeting. Consider bringing or wearing a sweater in case the room gets chilly

T2c - ESSAY QUESTIONS - include evidence you read in the text.

Plan out your answer on a blank piece of paper. Organize your ideas into topics; the most important ones shared first. Include important (key) language. Write neatly.

T2d - Mentally x-out answers that aren't relevant, appropriate, or realistic.

T2e - Ask if spelling is graded as part of the test.

To be understood, do your best to make your spelling match current conventions and standards in writing.

T2f - OPINION QUESTIONS - Answer by explaining how the question relates to your life experiences.

First, state your main thesis or point-of-view. Then support your view with succinct, relevant information. Share specific examples to support your ideas, if you have them.

I. column

Ia - Practice following directions in sequential order and using memory tools.

If you find it difficult to follow a series of directions in order, you may need to practice at home. Use mnemonics See: How to Remember Longs Lists and Numbers, a great article ! (www.mindtools.com/pages/article/new-TIM_13.htm)

Ib - Watch for and use key words.

This will reinforce that you understand and can use those words appropriately.

Ic - Make educated guesses when you are in doubt about the answer.

Id - Show your thinking when asked. Write/Draw clearly.

Keep math columns and graphs you create straight/lined up to avoid careless mistakes.

Ie - Be persistent. When you become frustrated, close your eyes & take a 10-second break.

If - OPEN BOOK TESTS - Use chapter and sub-headings and illustrations to locate information.

Remember the glossary, index and other sources of information in the book

Q. column

Qa - Have your tools ready.

Pencils, pens, erasers, as well as a scratch pad to layout your ideas before you add them to the test booklet.

Qb - Reread the most believable answers before you decide which one best provides the answer.

Qc - Ask questions when you need assistance.

True, most proctors (test monitors) are not allowed to assist you on specific test questions, but if you have a generic question they may be able to help you.

Qd - Rest your eyes and move to loosen your hands, shoulders and back periodically.

Qe - MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS - Rule out any answers that do not belong before you make your selection.

Qf - DOUBLE CHECK: Have you written your name and needed ID on the front of the test ??

Remember, a test is only one way to show what you know.