

Test Taking – Read Directions and Questions

The RAINS Method

Read the entire question and ALL choices before answering.

- Always reread the entire question and all choices.
- You may think the question is asking one thing, but after you read the complete question, it may actually be asking something else.

Analyze.

- Identify unknown words.
- Try to remember where you have seen these words before. Maybe you saw them in your textbooks or in your notes.

Identify the key words in the question and answer choices.

- These words are: *often, most, all, some, equal, good* and *sometimes*.

Notice the negatives

- These words are; *no, not, none, never*, and the prefix *un* (unimportant) or *in* (incomplete) in each questions and answer.
- Negatives can completely change the meaning of a question or an answer so watch carefully for these words.

Search for grammatical clues!

- All questions follow the rules of grammar. Narrow your choices by eliminating possible answer that do not produce grammatically correct sentences.

Source: Learning Toolbox, Steppingstone Technology Grant, James Madison University.