

# THE PSAT iN PLAYAT

PRETTY HOT AT TESTING



## TEST STRATEGIES

### GENERAL

**TEN-SECOND RULE**

Don't spend too long on any one question. If you haven't figured out how to attack a question within 10 seconds, skip it and come back to it later.

**ANSWER EVERYTHING**

You don't get counted off for missing questions, so you need to answer every single question. If you are stumped, use process of elimination and guess.

**BUBBLE IN CHUNKS**

Don't distract yourself by bubbling after every question. Bubble your answers after every few pages, after every reading passage, or at the end of a section. Remember that you need to bubble your answers before each section ends.

**NOTE KEY WORDS IN QUESTIONS**

Read questions carefully and pay attention to what the questions are asking.

**DON'T FALL IN LOVE WITH THE WRONG ANSWER**

The more you have to convince yourself an answer is right, the greater chance there is what you are thinking is wrong. Don't second guess yourself.

**ONE OF THESE IS NOT LIKE THE OTHERS**

If you notice that all of the answer choices are very similar except for one, check the one that is different first. There's a good chance that it is correct, but if it's not, eliminate it and move on to the other answer choices. This is helpful for vocabulary questions on both the Reading and Writing Sections.

### READING

**PICK YOUR PASSAGE**

You can do the reading passages in any order you want, so it is a good idea to do the easier passages first and save the harder ones for last.

**READ THE INTRO MATERIAL FIRST**

The information provided before a reading passage gives you important information about context and some clues.

**IDENTIFY THE TANDEM QUESTIONS**

For every reading passage, there will be at least one set of questions that go together: The first question will ask you a question about the passage, and the second question will ask you about the best evidence for the previous answer. Before you begin reading, mark these questions so that you know to answer them together.

**YOU ANSWER FIRST**

Before you look at the answer choices, think in your head what you think the answer is. This can prevent you from being tempted by wrong answers.

**DIVIDE AND CONQUER THE PAIRED PASSAGE**

Read the first passage and answer all of the questions about it before moving onto the second passage. Then, read the second passage and answer all of the questions about it. Finally, answer the questions that ask you about both. This will help you keep the passages straight in your head.

### WRITING

**BREVITY IS THE TIEBREAKER**

If you are stuck decided between a few answer choices on the Writing section, go for the shortest, simplest one. The shortest answer is often the correct answer.

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