

PREVIEW THE TEST: Read through the test quickly and answer the easiest questions first. Read through the test a second time and answer more difficult questions. You may pick up cues for answers from the first reading, or become more comfortable in the testing situation.

TEST TACTICS: There is no good substitute for studying carefully and knowing the right answer, but you can prevent silly mistakes by understanding the following strategies:

STRATEGY 1: Every part of a sentence or prompt must be true.

If any part of the sentence or prompt is false, the whole sentence is false despite any true statements.

- ❖ **EXAMPLE – Anacondas live in South America, feed on rodents, are venomous, and suffocate their prey by constricting muscles.**

This statement would be **false**. Even though most of the sentence is true, anacondas *are not* venomous, thus making the entire statement false.

STRATEGY 2: Understand how to approach tricky negatives.

A negative is a word or part of a word that narrows down the scope of the statement, such as cannot and do not. Instead, rephrase the sentence to help you clarify what is being asked if the negative words are confusing. In the case of double-negatives, simply cross out the negatives to turn the statement into a positive one and then select your answer.

- ❖ **EXAMPLE – It is not true that Canada is north of the United States**

Re-phrase: Remember that “not true” means incorrect or false. *Is it incorrect that Canada is north of the U.S.?*

This statement is **false** because Canada is, in fact, north of the United States.

- ❖ **EXAMPLE – Aspirin is not an illegal drug.**

Re-phrase: Aspirin is ~~not~~ an illegal drug. = Aspirin is a legal drug.

This statement is **true** because aspirin is a legal drug.

STRATEGY 3: Attack qualifiers accordingly.

Qualifiers limit meaning, such as *sometimes*, *often*, *frequently*, *ordinarily*, and *generally*. Qualifiers allow exceptions and possibilities that can make a question true, but not always.

- ❖ **EXAMPLE – Children sometimes have emotional problems following their parents’ divorce.**

This statement is **true** because the qualifier “sometimes” limits the scope of this statement and allows for exceptions.

STRATEGY 4: Recognize absolutes.

Absolute words imply that there are not exceptions to the facts stated in the prompt. Examples of such words are *never*, *none*, *always*, *all*, *every*, *entirely* and *only*. These words tend to make a statement false, but not always.

- ❖ **EXAMPLE – Everyone should exercise daily.**

This statement is **false** due to the word *everyone*. There are many people who should not exercise daily as well as people who may be unable or prohibited from doing any exercise.

- ❖ **EXAMPLE – All types of cars have some type of engine.**

This statement is **true**. Even though the absolute term “all” could tend to make this question false, the qualifier “some” makes the question more general and allows for possibilities (“some type of engine” does not have to be the familiar gasoline-driven engine).



Usually there are more true answers on an exam than false. If there is no penalty for guessing, you have a 50% chance of getting the question right!