

## OBJECTIVE TESTS

An objective test usually covers more material than an essay exam and contains more questions. However, each objective question has only one correct answer. Objective tests are given to measure knowledge of facts, to organize material, to recognize similarities and differences, to assess ability to reason logically from evidence given, to make fine distinctions, and to apply general concepts to specific problems.

### Preparing for the Test

Review your class notes and text, looking for ideas/concepts/terms that have been emphasized. Studying for objective tests requires making flash cards or charts, using mnemonics or other memorization devices that allow you to quiz yourself on specific information. Make up sample test questions that focus on specific details.

### Taking a Multiple Choice Test

1. Try to answer the question or complete the stem without looking at all the options. Cover the answers and see what first comes to mind.
2. Answer the questions you know first. Often answers to questions you don't know are supplied in other questions. Go back to answer the difficult questions later.
3. Don't change answers unless you have a good reason for doing so. Research indicates that your first answer is usually right.
4. Answer the options as if they were true/false questions. In a negatively worded question ("which of the following are NOT...") put a T or F beside each option, then select the false statement.
5. Use common sense. Rather than trying to recall the "right" answer, reason through each question.
6. Don't leave blanks, but make educated guesses.
7. When guessing, choose answers that are not the first or last option.
8. If the first option is a correct one, look at the last option to make sure it is not an "all of the above" question.
9. If options appear similar, chances are that one of is the correct response. The same is true for quantities that are almost the same.
10. Allow time to check for carelessness.

Don't panic. Most objective tests have questions that every student will miss. These are designed to test the upper limits of student performance. Do the best you can. If you are uncertain of an answer, make an educated guess after eliminating the choices you know are incorrect. Once you're finished, review the test to be sure you've answered everything.