TEST TAKING STRATEGIES

MIDDLE SCHOOL · CHECKLIST, POSTERS, REFLECTIONS



GRADES 6-8

24 PAGES

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PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____

My Test Strategy Checklist

Type an X when you used the step.

Strategy	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Test 4
Test or quiz				
Date				
1. Read the directions Underline what to do				
2. Read the whole question Circle the small words				
3. Find the key words Circle the topic words				
4. Cross out wrong answers Cross out what you know is wrong				
5. Skip and return Mark it and move on				
6. Check your work Go back to marked ones				

Which step helped me most? _____

Add a star for every X!

PREVIEW

Test strategy 1 of 6

Read the directions

Know what the test is asking you to do before you do it.

1. Read the directions slowly, all the way to the end.

2. Underline the action words: circle, choose, explain, show.

3. Check how many answers you need to give.

TRY IT: A MADE-UP SAMPLE QUESTION

Directions. Choose TWO answers that fit the paragraph.

Underline TWO. One answer is not enough, so you would lose the point.

PREVIEW

Test strategy 3 of 6

Find the key words

A few words tell you what the answer must be about.

1. Circle the words that name the topic.

2. Circle the words that say what to do, like why, compare, best.

3. Look back at the text for those same words.

TRY IT: A MADE-UP SAMPLE QUESTION

Which sentence best explains why the plant grew toward the window?

The circled words tell you to look for a reason, about the plant, about the window.

PREVIEW

Test strategy 6 of 6

Check your work

Use the last minutes to catch what you can fix.

1. Did I answer every question, including the ones I marked?

2. Does each answer match what the question asked?

3. Reread the questions that had a small word in them.

TRY IT: A MADE-UP SAMPLE QUESTION

- [ ] Every number has an answer
- [ ] I went back to my marked questions
- [ ] My name is on the paper

A quick check is not the same as starting over.

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____

After the Test

Look back. Be honest and kind.

Test or quiz

_____

Strategies I used	Used
1. Read the directions	
2. Read the whole question	
3. Find the key words	
4. Cross out wrong answers	
5. Skip and return	
6. Check your work	

How I feel now



What worked

_____

_____

What was tricky

_____

_____

Next time I will

_____

_____

Done. That took effort.

PREVIEW

My name _____

Test Bookmarks

Cut on the dashed lines. Keep one in your book.

Top row: the six steps. Bottom row: stay calm.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Read the directions Underline what to do.	**Read the whole question** Circle the small words.	**Find the key words** Circle the topic words.	**Cross out wrong answers** Cross out the wrong ones.	**Skip and return** Mark it. Move on.	**Check your work** Check every number.
☆ Breathe out slowly. Then read it again.	☆ One question at a time.	☆ I studied. I know more than I think.	☆ Stuck? Mark it. Move on.	☆ Reread. Slow is okay.	☆ I can ask for what I need.

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____

A Note to My Teacher

Tell your teacher what you need.

Dear _____

The test I am getting ready for is

Can you help me before the test?	Check
Can you go over what will be on the test?	
Can you look at my last test with me?	
Can you show me a practice question?	
Can you check my study plan?	
Can you answer a question I have?	

One thing I am worried about is

Something I am doing to get ready is

From _____

 Asking is a strategy too. 

PREVIEW

My Test Tracker

One row after each test or quiz. See page 21 for an example.

Name _____ Class _____ School year _____

Date	Test or quiz	Strategies I used (of 6)	Felt ready (1 to 4)	Next time I will

PREVIEW

A Filled-In Test Tracker (Invented Student)

Riley is made up; nothing here describes a real child. Every total is added from the rows. The blank tracker is on page 19.

Name: Riley M. (invented)

Class: Grade 7 (example)

School year: Example year

Date	Test or quiz	Strategies I used (of 6)	Felt ready (1 to 4)	Next time I will
Sep 12	Science quiz	4 of 6	3	Cross out wrong answers sooner.
Sep 26	Math unit test	5 of 6	3	Check my work with more time.
Oct 8	Reading test	6 of 6	4	Keep using the same plan.
Oct 22	Science unit test	4 of 6	3	Start my study plan earlier.
Nov 5	Math quiz	5 of 6	4	Mark hard ones right away.

Totals, added from the rows

Tests added	Steps used, all tests	Tests with 5 or more steps	Felt ready 3 or 4
5	24	3 of 5	5 of 5

What the totals say

Riley added 5 tests and used 24 steps in all. 3 of 5 tests used five or more steps, and 1 of 5 used all 6. 5 of 5 tests ended with a ready rating of 3 or 4.

PREVIEW

Reflection Starters

20 starters in 5 groups for reflections and notes to a teacher. Each ends in a blank for a word, a date or a name. Finish it in your own words.

Before the test

The test is on ____ and it covers ____.

The part I know best is ____.

The part I need to go over is ____.

I will start studying on ____.

When I get stuck

I reread the question and found ____.

I crossed out ____ because ____.

I marked number ____ and came back.

A word that helped me was ____.

After the test

The strategy that helped most was ____.

I ran out of time on ____.

Next time I will ____ first.

I am proud that I ____.

Asking for help

Can you go over ____ with me?

I did not understand ____. Can you show me an example?

Can I see what I missed on ____?

What is one thing I can do before the next test?

Staying calm

When I feel nervous I will ____.

A calm thought I can use is ____.

One thing that helps me start is ____.

After a hard question I will ____.

My own starters

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

PREVIEW