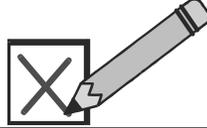


MULTIPLE CHOICE TEST STRATEGIES



- ✓ Do practice multiple choice questions in test-like conditions. If the professor does not provide example questions, you can find samples in commercial study aids, including the BarBri first year review series.
- ✓ Unless the professor instructs otherwise, complete the multiple choice section last. In a law exam, you are likely to receive more points for correct answers in the essay section. If you are running out of time, it is easier to select answers in the multiple choice section than to write essay answers. (Please note: some students prefer to do multiple choice first as a way to “warm up” for the essay questions.)
- ✓ Read all instructions carefully. The directions may say: “choose the most correct answer” or “mark the one best answer” or “mark all correct answers.”
- ✓ Study and read the entire fact pattern or question stem. Don’t be surprised if your law school multiple choice questions and answers are as long as your essay question fact patterns.
- ✓ Try to guess the answer before looking at the answer choices. Knowing what you are looking for prior to seeing the given answers will help you find the correct choice.
- ✓ Read all choices before selecting your answer, even if you are certain that the first choice is the correct answer.
- ✓ Eliminate answers that you know are wrong. Some professors include answers that contain incorrect statements of the law. Many students find it useful to cross out these answers in their test booklets.
- ✓ Know when to guess. On law school exams, there is usually no penalty for guessing. (Make sure to ask your professor about this. Some professors will subtract points for incorrect answers.) First, eliminate the obvious incorrect answers and then rely on your knowledge of the material, familiar phrases from class, and gut feelings to make a selection. If you are really stuck, try reading the question with each answer individually.
- ✓ Beware of superlatives and qualifying words. Words such as “every,” “all,” “none,” “always,” and “only” indicate a correct answer must be an undisputed fact. There are very few undisputed statements in law. However, qualifying words, such as “usually,” “often,” “generally,” “may,” and “seldom,” suggest that a statement could be true under certain circumstances, which is more likely in the legal field.
- ✓ Consider “all of the above” and “none of the above” options. If you know that two of the three or four options are correct, then “all of the above” is a strong possibility.
- ✓ Always have a good reason for changing an answer. Your first response is usually the correct one! Although there are exceptions to this rule, the best approach in most cases is to carefully answer each question the first time you go through an exam, and change only those answers that are clearly mistakes.