Writing Multiple Choice Tests

Academic Learning Centre
201 Tier
480-1481
Hierarchy of Learning

1. Knowledge (Recognition/Recall)
2. Understanding/Comprehension
3. Application
4. Analysis
5. Synthesis
6. Evaluation

Knowledge Based Question

The effect of primacy on impression formation was first studied in 1957 by:

a) Freud
b) Luchins
c) Seyle
d) Maslow
e) Watson
Comprehension Based Question

According to research on first impressions, the *primacy effect* is a term used to describe:

a) the impact of one’s initial impression on others that becomes difficult to change.

b) how a person judges others through the lens of his or her own cultural framework.

c) beliefs about what character traits will occur simultaneously in people.
You are at a party. A person walks up to you and accidentally spills a drink all over your new pants. You begin to dislike the person, even though everybody else claims that the person is really nice. Your reason can be attributed to:

a) the co-variation rule  
b) implicit personality theory  
c) the actor observer bias  
d) the primacy effect
According to social psychologists, there is a cognitive bias known as the primacy effect that overemphasizes the importance of first impressions. This is generally assumed to be because people are especially attentive during introductions.

Ex: Dad always says “give a firm handshake”
Preparing for Exams

• Elaborate and create meaning

• Apply concepts to real life situations

• Study regularly and review frequently

• Use active study strategies

• Test yourself regularly
Which of the following is an example of a social system that ranks people into a hierarchy?

a) the caste system 
b) the class system 
c) the estate system 
d) the feudal system 
e) all of the above
Tips for Taking Multiple Choice Tests...

Be systematic

• Cover the alternatives and focus on the question
• Come up with your own answer
• Read each response one at a time
• Eliminate wrong answers
• Identify the best possible response
Writing Multiple Choice Tests

Some things to consider:

• Absolutes (ex: always, only, never, every)
• Negatives and double negatives
• Word associations
• Unfamiliar content
• Similar responses
• Contrasting responses
• All of the above
Specific Determiners

Watch out for words like:

• Always, never, all, none, every, only
  ex: Mercury is always in a liquid state. False

• Usually, often, generally, seldom, typically
  ex: Rembrandt typically painted portraits. True
Negatives and Double Negatives

• Negatives: look for the *false* responses

  ex: Which of the following is *not* part of the cardiac cycle?
  ex: All of the following are found in plant cells *except*:

• Double negatives: rewrite the sentence

  common
  ex: Which of the following is *not un* common?
Word Association

• Watch for words clues in both the stem and the response.

Ex: Marrying someone outside of the group to which you belong is defined as:
   a) Polyandry
   c) Endogamy
   d) Exogamy
   e) Monogamy
Sensory memory can be defined as:

a) memory that groups distinct pieces of information together.

b) memory that is permanent and limited only by storage capacity.

c) memory that briefly holds information in a person’s senses.
Unfamiliar Content

• Be wary of response items that contain content that you do not understand.

  a) Torpor is an alternative physiological state, during which metabolism decreases and heart rate slows down.

  b) Torpor is a physiological state that is conducive to somatic dematriculation of the ganglion.
Similar Responses

• When items are very similar, there is a strong possibility that one is correct. Study them closely.

  a) Discrimination is detrimental because it depletes a country’s social, economic, and political resources.

  b) Discrimination is detrimental because it depletes a country’s social, economic, and natural resources.

water, energy, timber, and minerals
Contrasting Responses

• When you are faced with two options that are exactly opposite, there is a chance that one is the correct choice.

ex: Torpor is characterized by (a/an):
   a) decrease in heart rate.
   b) increase in heart rate.
   c) increase in food consumption.
Which of the following would be considered typical, if you were living in a tropical climate?

a) There are forests filled with natural vegetation.  T
b) The climate is warm and wet in both summer and winter.  T

c) Rainfall usually comes from daily convectional rains  ?

d) All of the above.
Do you ever change your answers?

• If you have a reason to change the answer, change it!

• Don’t play mind games with yourself.
Sources


Sources


