

Grade 5 Test-Taking Strategies and Tips

Overview of Test-Taking Strategies and Tips

It's much easier to take a test when you've worked out a plan beforehand. Here are six strategies that will help you do better on tests. Learning how and when to use these strategies is your test-taking plan. With this plan in place, you'll be well-prepared to tackle any test question!

Strategy 1: Process of Elimination

This strategy shows you how to get rid of wrong answers and narrow down your choices. It's easier to pick the right answer when you have fewer options to choose from.

Strategy 2: Using Context Clues

This strategy teaches you how to spot clues in the test item that will help you figure out the answer. Clues can be hiding in the directions, the passage, or the answer choices.

Strategy 3: Read the Questions and Answers First

This strategy helps you practice reading the questions and possible answers before reading a passage. Previewing the questions and answers helps you know what information to look for as you read.

Strategy 4: Underlining Key Words

This strategy teaches you how to locate important information in the test item. Underlining these key words and phrases makes them easy to see and helps you focus on the best answer.

Strategy 5: Plug-In

This strategy shows you how to "test out" each answer choice by plugging it into a sentence or phrase. You can then cross out answers that don't make sense and find the answer that is the best fit.

Strategy 6: Reread

This strategy reminds you to reread the directions, a passage, or the answer choices when you need to. Rereading can help you clarify a question or find information that you need in order to find the best answer.

Once you know how to apply these six strategies, you can use the one that will help you the most. You may also want to use two or three strategies together to find the best answer.

Answers to Practice Test

1. (A) ● (C) (D)

2. ● (B) (C) (D)

3. (A) (B) ● (D)

4. (A) ● (C) (D)

5. (A) (B) (C) ●

6. (A) (B) ● (D)

7. (A) (B) ● (D)

8. ● (B) (C) (D)

9. (A) (B) ● (D)

Grade 5 Practice Test: Reading Comprehension (Fiction: Long Passage)

Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions.

Sample Question

Allie and Rachel kicked up bits of sand as they skipped across the playground. The two sisters found a shady spot and spread out their blanket. Allie began reading a book. Rachel closed her eyes and felt the warm sun on her face.

What is the mood of the passage?

- (A) mysterious (B) serious (C) lighthearted (D) chaotic

If you read the question first, you know to pay attention to the mood of the passage. Words like “skipped” and “warm sun” help create a calm, mild feeling. The best way to describe the mood is answer C, “lighthearted.”



REMIINDER: Read the questions first so you’ll know what to look for as you read the passage.

Now, read the passage and answer questions 1-9. Stop at the end of the test.

Clancy held on tight to his sister, Shay, as they made their way to the ship’s top deck. Despite the long, hard weeks at sea, everyone was smiling and talking happily. People had dressed in their best clothes to gather on the deck. Shay wiped her nose and coughed into her mother’s long skirt. The last storm at sea had left their sleeping quarters damp and musty. Shay was so feverish that she barely noticed that the boat was nearing a tall, silver statue.

“It’s the Statue of Liberty,” their mother explained. “Soon we will be in America.” Clancy noticed the statue held a torch in one of her hands. The torch guided the boat into the harbor, like a lighthouse bringing a ship in from a storm.

After the ship docked, the family followed the other immigrants onto a small island with many buildings. They took their place in line and waited solemnly. This place was called “the stairs of separation” for a reason. A doctor would examine each person to see if they were healthy. A person with a contagious illness would not be allowed into America. The doctor marked the sick people with chalk. If you received a chalk mark, you would be separated from your family and examined further.

Clancy’s mother whispered nervously, “Shay, wipe your nose, and don’t sniffle or cough!” Even though Shay was only three years old, she had to approach the doctor by herself. The inspectors watched to make sure each person could walk normally. After a few seconds, the doctor marked Shay’s shoulder with chalk. Clancy watched his mother gasp and silently weep. He was next in line to be examined.

Clancy took slow, unsteady steps toward the doctor. He appeared light-headed and dizzy, although he actually felt fine. As the doctor looked into his eyes and nose, Clancy started coughing. The doctor reached for his chalk and marked Clancy’s shoulder. Clancy hugged his mother and whispered, “Don’t worry, I’ll take care of Shay and make sure she gets better.”

Clancy and Shay stayed in a hospital on the island. They slept on stiff cots in a cramped room packed with sick children. Still, though, it was better than their room had been on the ship. They ate warm meals in a cafeteria and got lots of rest. Clancy stayed by Shay’s side and her health improved. In a few days, the doctors examined the children again. This time, they both passed the exam.

The children were led through a registration area and past more inspectors. Finally, they saw their mother. She leaned her weary body against a solid, sturdy pillar for support. Clancy had heard about this pillar. It was called “the kissing post” because families were reunited there. The children rushed to their mother and the family embraced. They found strength in being together and felt ready to start their new life.

Grade 5 Practice Test: *(continued)*

- How can the passage be described?**
 (A) folk tale (B) historical fiction (C) personal narrative (D) science fiction
- The underlined sentence in paragraph 3 is an example of what?**
 (A) simile (B) personification (C) alliteration (D) none of these
- The story's mood can be described as**
 (A) romantic. (B) humorous. (C) solemn. (D) hopeless.
- What is the theme of the story?**
 (A) America was not welcoming to immigrants. (C) Immigrants to America often became sick.
 (B) Immigrants faced struggles in order to gain entry to America. (D) Education was important to the early immigrants.
- What is the main problem Clancy's family faces when they arrive?**
 (A) Shay cannot walk on her own. (C) They are forced to wait in a long line.
 (B) Everyone in the family is marked with chalk after the exam. (D) The family might be separated because of the health exam.
- How does Clancy solve the problem?**
 (A) He holds on tight to his sister while they are on the crowded deck.
 (B) He meets his mother at the "kissing post."
 (C) He pretends to be sick, so he can stay with Shay.
 (D) He begs the doctors to let Shay stay with the rest of the family.
- In paragraph 4, why does Clancy's mother "gasp and silently weep"?**
 (A) She is shocked that they all passed the exam.
 (B) She is exhausted from waiting in the long line.
 (C) She is worried and upset that Shay did not pass the medical exam.
 (D) She feels happy to finally be in America.
- The third paragraph helps to do what?**
 (A) describe what happens at the "stairs of separation"
 (B) show how the immigrants felt
 (C) explain the history of the Statue of Liberty
 (D) give background about Clancy's family
- What does "the kissing post" symbolize at the end of the story?**
 (A) peace and liberty
 (B) the hardships Shay and Clancy experienced in the hospital
 (C) the family's strength in making it to America together
 (D) the unity felt among all immigrants