**Step 1 + 2: Read the question before you look at the answer. You have to know what you’re being asked before you can give the right answer.**

There are two ways to bomb a test. First, you can **fail to prepare**. As the old saying goes, “Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.”

The second way to bomb a test is **carelessness**. This may be a reason for more missed multiple choice questions than even unpreparedness.

Here are some important things to look for to make sure you’re answering the right multiple choice question:

* “Which is NOT…”
* Questions with more than one possible answer
* “All of the above” as an answer
* “None of the above” as an answer
* “All of the following EXCEPT…”

**Make sure you pay attention to these common tricky multiple choice questions.**

Step 3: **Evaluate each answer to the multiple choice question.**

After you’ve correctly identified the right type of question, you always want to do a quick evaluation of the answers. Often the types of answers given will suggest which is right. If you are surprised by the answers given, you want to double check that you read the question correctly.

**Read all the answers before choosing the correct one!**

If you’ve been studying effectively throughout the class, most multiple choice answers should be familiar. It’s a rare question that will have answers you’ve never seen in the class.

And keep this in mind: in this stage of the game, your goal is simple. **Make sure that the answers you’re given match the question you think you’ve been asked.**

Step 4: **Eliminate each clearly wrong answer.**

This phase more or less blends with the previous step. As you go, some answers will be so wrong that it’s not even funny.

If you’re asked which president chopped down a cherry tree and “Snoopy the dog” is an answer… well, hopefully you see what’s wrong with that answer. If not, I’ve got nothing for you.

Often this phase of the process will eliminate all but one answer. At that point, by simple process of elimination, you’ve answered the multiple choice question.

Step 5: **If all else fails, guess like a street magician.**

What do you straight-up don’t have a clue?

Our guesses, however, are a special kind of guess. We don’t just blindly pick “C” because it’s the most common response (which I don’t think it is, by the way).

 They just make some educated guesses based on connections.

**That’s the key – guess based on connections.**

Even with excellent study skills, I almost always run into questions to which I don’t know the answer. Sometimes it’s worse than that. Sometimes I don’t even know where to start. It’s a complete and total guess.

But almost every time I know a connection to something in the question. Find those connections, use them, and guess based on them.

No connections? I’d go with your gut. But let’s look for the connections first.