

Multiple Choice

Study Guidelines

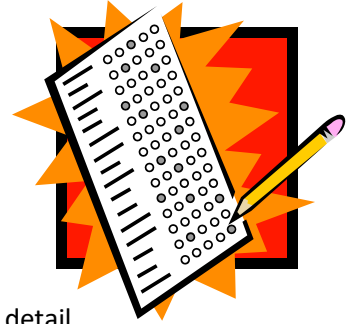
Multiple choice exams test your ability to recall information, not just recognize it. They also test:

- Understanding of concepts and ideas
- Ability to connect details to key ideas
- Ability to apply facts, concepts and theories

📌 Review the study guide, especially if the professor is using questions from the question bank provided by the textbook/study guide publisher.

📌 Generate possible exam questions yourself.

📌 Look at previous tests to get an idea of the type of information and depth of detail you'll be responsible for.



Types of Questions

❶ **Recognition/Recall:** tests knowledge from lectures and text

How to Study? Memorization

Example: Who was one of the five 'good' Roman emperors?

- a). Galba b). Nerva c). Marc Anthony d). Augustus

❷ **Comprehension:** tests how concepts are related to each other or requires knowledge beyond straight memorization

How to Study? Elaborate and draw connections between concepts and evidence

Example: Which of the following is not related to the process of elaborative rehearsal?

- a) adding details to ideas and concepts
b) analyzing component parts of an idea
c) restating knowledge in your own words
d) none of the above

❸ **Elaboration and Application:** tests your ability to understand the relationship between a theory and its evidence and then apply this understanding to a hypothetical relationship or case study

How to Study? Practice recalling theories, elaborating and creative thinking

Example: In the study by Bahrck and Hall (1991) we find that graduates of college math courses recall high school math knowledge for many years after. According to Bahrck and Hall, which of the following would you expect to be true of a group of university graduate who did not take math courses at university?

- a) they would recall their high school math to essentially the same extent as those who took math at university
b) most would recall little or none of their high school math 50 years after
c) they'd best recall math they learned more about in university courses
d) both b) and c)
e) all of the above

Writing the Exam

- ✔ Read the instructions carefully.
- ✔ Do the questions in the order presented, marking the difficult ones clearly so you can come back to them at the end. Don't waste time on questions you don't know when doing your first pass through the exam.
- ✔ Underline the key terms in the question, especially if there are qualifiers such as 'not' or 'always'.
- ✔ Try to answer the question before looking at the options.
- ✔ Eliminate the incorrect options first by crossing them out so they don't distract you.
- ✔ Do NOT initially mark up the Scantron sheet. If you think you'll have time, mark your answers clearly on the test paper itself and then transfer your answers to the Scantron at the end when you've gone back and completed all the questions. This will avoid skipping bubbles or missing a row which could mess up your entire Scantron sheet and cost you marks.

Guessing

Unlike other types of exams, you have the answer in front of you and have a 25% chance of getting the question right. So, when all else fails and you have no idea guess! Hopefully your studying pays off, but for the questions you come across that you have no idea for try these tips for educated guessing.

- ✔ Avoid extreme values – few things are 'always' or 'never' true. Instead chose moderate statements ('a few', 'often') or numbers in the middle of the range.
- ✔ Select 'all of the above' if you think at least one of the options is true and 'none of the above' if none of the options look familiar or plausible.
- ✔ Check for look-alike options or opposite options. One of them is usually the answer.
- ✔ Options which seem foolish or completely unfamiliar are likely incorrect.
- ✔ Choose the longest option.
- ✔ Go with your gut.
- ✔ When nothing else works pick a response and move on – don't waste time on a question you don't know.

