

AP Multiple Choice- Test Taking Tips

- 45% of total score - 45-60 objective questions on four to five prose and poetry selections – one hour to complete
- You are expected to: follow sophisticated (and often outdated) syntax, respond to diction, be comfortable with upper-level vocab, be familiar with lit terms, make inferences, be sensitive to irony and tone, recognize components of style.
- Watch timing (save the harder passages for last): 15 min per selection or one min per question
- Interact with text: underline, circle, bracket – read “aloud” in your head, use your finger to skim lines. **READ ACTIVELY!**
- Don't ignore information such as author, date of publication, footnotes
- Be aware of themes, foreshadowing, and overall tone/meaning
- Anticipate the answer before scanning the options
- For each passage there will be easy, medium, hard questions – not in any order
- If it comes down to it, always guess (leave no answer blank) – no penalty points for wrong answers
- Don't spend too much time on any one question
- Know the types of questions that are more difficult for you and save till last:

Types of questions

- “all of the following except” (save these till the end)
- “refers to specific word or lines” (read a sentence or two before and after to get the context)
- Roman Numerals (most really struggle with this one)
- Straightforward – factual (usually easier questions-require to go back in the text)
- “make inference or abstract a concept that is not directly stated in the passage”- inferential thinking
- Speaker
- Main idea or meaning in context

- Don't fight the question or passage – you may know other information about the subject, however, work with the given context ONLY
- Consider all the choices before selecting an answer – don't jump to false conclusions
- Maintain an open mind as you answer subsequent questions. Sometimes the answer to a later question will contradict your answer to a previous one. Reconsider both answers
- All parts of an answer must be correct.
- POE (Process Of Elimination)

Eliminate answer choices that are obviously wrong

Eliminate those that are too narrow or too broad

Eliminate illogical choices

Eliminate answers that are synonymous

- Rephrase the question leaving a blank where the answer should go, then use each of the choices to fill in the blank until you find the one that is the best fit.
- If you are running out of time, look for questions that point you to a specific line of text for the answer, and look for self-contained questions (you don't even need the text to answer them)