

Test Taking Strategies and Tips: Social Studies

STRATEGIES	TIPS
Vocabulary	<p>Look out for words in the questions that tell you what you have to do to get the right answer:</p> <p>Examine - look closely at something to analyze Trace-Follow something from beginning to end Analyze-Look at something closely to figure it out Infer- think of trying to get to the idea that is "under the surface," "between the lines," really what the author means but is not saying right out ...making you guess the real meaning of what is being said Evaluate-what is good or bad about something Formulate-put the pieces together Describe- Tell what something looks like Support- Give reasons, details, facts to back up an idea Explain - Make something clear Summarize-list the main points in a short description Compare-how are things alike (same, similar) Contrast-how are things different, unlike) Predict-What will happen next? What is your opinion - This is your opinion...based ONLY ON THE FACTS IN THE STORY...NOT YOUR REAL, PERSONAL OPINION How or Why - Explain the cause or reason for something</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 0;"/> <p>Best Most Least Not</p>
Process of Elimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't leave blanks in FCAT. A blank is immediately scored as a wrong

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<p>(POE) to figure out answers</p>	<p>answer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even if you are not sure of an answer, you can eliminate wrong answers so you can make an "educated guess." • Read all the answers. Start at the last answer (d) or (e) and work your way back to (a) so you don't make a hasty choice. • Put a line through each wrong answer as you eliminate it. • Be careful that answers that are "close" but not exactly right don't trick you. • DETAILS IN THE TEXT must support your answer choice. • Remember you will have to make inferences, because some answers will NOT be directly stated in the passage. • When a question asks you to identify the BEST answer choice, make sure you examine each one. Even if one might SEEM ok, another one might be better • Select the answer choice that is MOST correct. • Don't go back and change answers unless you are positive you made a mistake.
<p>Reading passages (texts, articles, essays)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the questions first, so you know what to look for in the article • <u>Skim and scan to locate and include information from multiple places in the text for answers. You can not return to only one place in the text to get information</u> • Answer all the questions about one passage before you move on to the next. • Mark the text, make notes, underline, and pick out main ideas and key words as you read, summarize as you go by writing notes in margin, number paragraphs for easy reference
<p>"Words and Phrase in Context" questions:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look back at the sentence to see how the word is used. • Read the sentences around the one that contains the word as well.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Test writers usually use the less common definition of a word.</u> • Don't waste time reviewing the entire passage. Just focus on the paragraph and sentence in which the word appears. • Examine the structure of the word (prefixes, root, suffixes)
"Main Idea questions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to identify the many ways a "main idea" question might be asked in a test question. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One question may ask you to finish the sentence, "This passage is mainly about?" ○ Another may ask for the "best summary of the passage." ○ Another may say, "What was the author's intent or opinion?"
"Comparisons and Cause and Effect" questions:	<p><u>Know the signal words you will see in a compare or contrast text:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Although, as well as, as opposed to, both, but, compared with, different from, either...or, even though, however, instead of, in common, on the other hand, otherwise, similar to, similarly, still, yet. <p><u>Know the signal words you will see in a cause and effect article:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consequently, therefore, as a result, thereby, leads to, a result of, accordingly, because, begins with, effects of, finally, first, for this reason, how to, how, if...then, in order to, is caused by, leads/led to, may be due to, next, so that, steps involved, therefore, thus, when...then
"Reference and Research" questions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure the answer you choose is included or implied in the text and in charts, graphs, pictures, etc. • Be sure to read all captions, endnotes, definitions on page
Short/Extended Response Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did you plan your answer in advance of writing it? • Did you remember that you do not need an introduction or conclusion on these questions?

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Answer all parts of the question?• Briefly rephrase the question in your own words as the first line of the answer?• Focus only on the question, and not waste time on introduction, body and conclusion (format) like an essay answer.• Paraphrase (put in own words) text-based details to support answer?• Don't use lists and diagrams to answer the question?• Don't retelling the whole story or article?• Don't use personal opinions or any information not in the article?• If you have to show cause and effect or compare/contrast in your answer, make sure you have included the entire answer (Both the cause part and effect part, the two parts of a comparison or a contrast).• You don't need to fill all the lines...just give a good, complete answer.• Don't write below, up the side of, or on top of the answer box?
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Diane Fettrow: Test-Taking Strategies Workshop