Tips for Taking Multiple Choice Exams



Preparing for the Exam

- Plan a realistic study schedule
- Identify most important concepts
- Try to identify the content of the questions
- Memorization is acceptable for some information—but not for all



Preparing for the Exam

- Actively summarize
- Study with another well-prepared candidate if possible
- Spaced studying is more effective than "mass" studying (aka cramming)
- Don't "psych" yourself out



Control Test Anxiety

- Be prepared emotionally, physically, intellectually to take the exam
- Stay away from others right before the exam



- Arrive at the exam site early
- Don't expect to know everything



Strategies During the Exam

- Build your confidence by answering the questions you know
- Plan your time and pace yourself
- If you think a question is tricky—think again. Most questions are tricky because they are not taken at face value.
- Read each question carefully
 - Identify key words
 - Identify subject areas
 - Identify what is being asked



Strategies During the Exam

- Read each of the responses. ..don't stop when one seems likely
 - Don't select an answer because you remember it being a piece of correct information
 - Don't dismiss an answer that seems too obvious or simple
 - Don't be persuaded by technical terms
 - Eliminate responses you know to be incorrect as your read through the choices





Strategies During the Exam

Change your answer only if you have a good reason for doing so



- If two responses appear to be equally correct ...
 - Eliminate the one that appears least related to the question
 - Ask yourself which answer more completely answers the question
 - If you are unable to determine which answer is correct, trust your first instinct!
- If you are not certain of an answer, make an educated guess

