

AP Lang Multiple Choice Tips!

****If you score 60% or higher on MC, you are guaranteed to get a 3+ (if you write all your essays). $31+5+4+4=3$**
IF you score 22 of 52 MC (42%) and your essays are 6+5+5, will you get a 3? _____. SO let's get started!

- Work in order. We like this approach for several reasons:
 - It's clear.
 - You will not lose your place on the scan sheet.
 - There may be a logic to working sequentially which will help you to answer previous questions. BUT, this is your call. If you are more comfortable moving around the exam, do so.
- Write on the exam booklet. Mark it up. Make it yours. Interact with the test.
- Do not spend too much time on any one question.
- Do not be misled by the length or appearance of a selection. There is no correlation between this and the difficulty of the questions.
- Don't fight the question or the passage. You may know other information about the subject of the text or a question. It's irrelevant. Work within the given context.
- Consider all the choices in a given question. This will guard against your jumping to a false conclusion. It helps you to slow down and to look closely at each possibility. You may find that your first choice was not the best or most appropriate one.
- Maintain an open mind as you answer subsequent questions in a series. Sometimes a later question will contradict an answer to a previous one. Reconsider both. Likewise, even the phrasing of a question may point to an answer in a previous question.
- Remember that all parts of an answer must be correct.
- When in doubt, go back to the text.



**** Quickly Annotate while reading the passage for Multiple Choice, BUT NOT as scrupulously as if it is a Rhetorical Analysis.**

Specific Techniques

- Process of Elimination—This is the primary tool, except for direct knowledge of the answer.
 1. Read the five choices.
 2. If no choice immediately strikes you as correct, you can
 - eliminate any which are obviously wrong;
 - eliminate those choices which are too narrow or too broad;
 - eliminate illogical choices;
 - eliminate answers which are synonymous;
 - eliminate answers which cancel each other out.
 3. If two answers are close,
 - find the one general enough to contain all aspects of the question
 - OR
 - find the one limited enough to be the detail the question is seeking.
- Substitution/Fill In the Blank
 1. Rephrase the question, leaving a blank where the answer should go.
 2. Use each of the choices to fill in the blank until you find the one that is the best fit.
- Using Context
 1. Use this technique when the question directs you to specific lines, words, or phrases.
 2. Locate the given word, phrase, or sentence and read the sentence before and after the section of the text to which the question refers. Often this provides the information or clues you need to make your choice.
- Anticipation

As you read the passage for the first time, mark any details and ideas that you would ask a question about. You may second-guess the test makers this way.
- Intuition/The Educated Guess

You have a wealth of skills and knowledge in your language and composition subconscious. A question or a choice may trigger a “remembrance of things past.” This can be the basis for your educated guess. Have the confidence to use the educated guess as a valid technique. Trust your own resources.