Strategies for Multiple Choice Exams

**Before the Exam**

Start **studying early**. Stick to your study schedule. Do not memorize the material, because instructors will rephrase information in their own words as they write the exams. Make sure you **understand** the material. Test strategies cannot make up for ineffective preparation.

**During the Exam**

**Preview** the questions and estimate how much time you will have to answer each question. Answer all of the questions you know **first** and mark the ones you skip. Once you have answered all of the questions you know, go back to the questions you skipped. Use **information** and **insights** you learn as you take the test to go back and fix incorrect answers (if applicable). Make sure all aspects of the answer are correct.

**If You’re Unsure of the Answer**

If there is a question that uses terminology you do not know, use your knowledge of common prefixes to answer (i.e. hyper means high). Avoid options that are completely unfamiliar to you. If two answers are similar, translate them to your own words and analyze the difference. Only change your answer when you know another is better or you made a mistake. **Don’t** overthink the answer.

**After the Exam**

If time allows, **review** your questions and answers to make sure that you did not misread any questions.

**Tips**

- You can eliminate "all of the above" if you know know one of the answer choices is incorrect
- Watch out for statements that include absolutes such as "never", "always", "is", "are", "guarantees", "ensures". These types of statements are restrictive and often difficult to defend
- If you still don't know then answer make an educated guess by narrowing down your choices and carefully review your options