

# Table of Contents

---

Introduction . . . . .	3
Content Standards and Skills Index . . . . .	4
General Test Taking Strategies . . . . .	5
Reducing Test Anxiety . . . . .	6
Strategies for Reducing Test Anxiety . . . . .	7
Multiple-Choice Questions . . . . .	9
Extreme Words and Statements . . . . .	10
Meta Multiple-Choice . . . . .	11
Multiple-Choice Strategies . . . . .	12
Multiple-Choice Practice Questions . . . . .	13
More Multiple-Choice Practice . . . . .	15
Getting to Know Test Structure . . . . .	16
Marking Your Answers . . . . .	17
Literal, Inferential, and Analytical Questions . . . . .	18
The Organization of Fiction and Nonfiction . . . . .	21
Language Arts Tests . . . . .	26
Reading Comprehension Tests . . . . .	44
Essay Questions . . . . .	77
Student Answer Sheets . . . . .	78
Answer Key . . . . .	79

# Meta Multiple-Choice

---

Following are several strategies that students can use when confronted by multiple-choice questions and a practice multiple-choice test. The purpose of this test is not to assess content knowledge, but to provide students with an opportunity to both ponder and practice applying these strategies. Distribute copies of pages 12 through 14. Students can work individually, in pairs, or in larger groups. Encourage students to identify which strategies they used and which clues contained within the stems or the options helped them to arrive at the correct answer. Before students begin, it will be important to remind them that these strategies are guidelines and should not be applied thoughtlessly.

## **The Secrets to Acing Tests!**

---

When we teach our students test-taking strategies we run the risk of inadvertently implying that it is possible to do well on a test by simply strategizing alone. This, of course, is not the case. No test-taking strategy can take the place of simply knowing the material and it's important that this be stated explicitly to students. Students who understand the material and who are confident usually don't need strategies to help them do well on tests; and if they do it is only on about 10% of the test items. It is critical that students understand that the most important and fool-proof test-taking strategy is simply knowing the material.

### **The Secrets to Acing Tests!**

- ✓ Attend school regularly and be on time.
- ✓ Come to school prepared, rested and ready to learn.
- ✓ Complete all of your classroom and homework assignments.
- ✓ Ask for help if you don't understand.
- ✓ Spend time everyday studying and reviewing material.
- ✓ Create a organized and quiet place in which to study.
- ✓ Know that procrastination is the enemy of achievement!

# Reading Comprehension: Nonfiction *(cont.)*

**Directions:** Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions that follow. Fill in the correct answer circle.

## The Brain

Although every part of your body is important, probably the single most important part is your brain. The brain is kind of like mission control; in other words, it controls virtually everything that goes on inside of your body including your breathing, your thinking, and your sleeping. It even tells your heart to beat! It's no wonder that such a critical organ is protected by a thick bony skull!

Of course, the brain doesn't work alone. It operates in tandem with the spinal cord, which originates at the base of your brain and runs the length of your entire back. The spinal cord consists of tendril-like branches that extend to every part of your body. Together the brain and the spinal cord make up the central nervous system.

The brain has many different parts and each part has a specific job to do. The cerebrum is located at the front of the brain, just behind our foreheads. It is divided up into four lobes: the frontal, parietal, temporal and occipital. The cerebrum is the part of the brain where all of your memories and emotions are. The cerebrum is also responsible for speech.

Deep inside of your brain lay the hypothalamus and the pituitary gland. The hypothalamus is responsible for keeping your pulse steady, and also making sure you get a good nights sleep. In addition, it keeps the pituitary gland in line, which is important, because that gland controls both our metabolism and digestion!

The brain stem, located at the back of your brain, is connected to the top of the spinal cord. It contains the pons and the medulla oblongata. The pons is like a telephone receptionist, taking and relaying messages to different parts of the brain. The medulla oblongata controls breathing and the beating of your heart.

The brain and the spinal cord work together as a team to keep you functioning properly. Let's say, for example, you accidentally touch something that is hot enough to cause you an injury. The nerves in your hand send a signal to the spinal cord, which relays that signal to your brain. In response, your brain sends a signal back the same way telling you to quickly move your hand away from the source of heat. Of course, this happens so quickly that you are unaware of all of the hustle and bustle that has occurred within your central nervous system.

Although the brain and the spinal cord are protected by bones, they can still get injured and sometimes these kinds of injuries can have very serious consequences. Damage to the spinal cord can cause paralysis, because the connection to the brain is broken. Encephalitis is a brain infection that can cause inflammation and permanently impair the brain. Drugs and alcohol can also have a devastating effect on the brain and like a physical injury, can lead to death.

Because of the importance of both the brain and the spinal cord, it's imperative to protect them both when playing sports or engaging in other physical activities that could cause injury. It is also essential to avoid drug and alcohol abuse, for once the brain is damaged, it is damaged for good.



# Reading Comprehension: Nonfiction *(cont.)*

**Directions:** Fill in the correct answer circle.

1. What is the central nervous system?

- Ⓐ the brain and the brain stem
- Ⓑ the brain and the pons
- Ⓒ the brain and the spinal cord
- Ⓓ the four lobes of the brain

2. Where is the occipital lobe located?

- Ⓔ the midbrain
- Ⓕ the hypothalamus
- Ⓖ the cerebellum
- Ⓗ the cerebrum

3. Damage to the cerebrum may lead to what?

- Ⓐ loss of appetite
- Ⓑ loss of speech
- Ⓒ loss of balance
- Ⓓ digestive problems

4. What is located in the parietal lobe?

- Ⓔ the passage doesn't say
- Ⓕ the thalamus
- Ⓖ the pons
- Ⓗ the neurons

5. Breathing is controlled by what part of the brain?

- Ⓐ thalamus
- Ⓑ pituitary gland
- Ⓒ medulla oblongata
- Ⓓ none of these

6. How does the brain send and receive signals to and from the body?

- Ⓔ through the brain stem
- Ⓕ through the spinal cord
- Ⓖ through the pons
- Ⓗ none of these

7. Why might a spinal cord injury result in paralysis?

- Ⓐ the brain would become inflamed
- Ⓑ the spinal cord would swell
- Ⓒ the connection between the brain and spinal cord would be broken
- Ⓓ the pons would cease to work

8. How long does it take for damaged brain tissue to repair itself?

- Ⓔ Damaged brain tissue can't be restored.
- Ⓕ about 6 months
- Ⓖ about 6 years
- Ⓗ about 6 days

