

## Test-Taking Tips for Mathematics Grades 8 & 10

### Before the Test

- Begin to get ready for the test by developing a positive attitude. Tell yourself, "I will do my best on this test."
- Get a good night's sleep the night before the test.
- Get up early enough to avoid hurrying to get ready for school.
- Eat a good breakfast (and lunch, if your test is in the afternoon).

### During the Test

- Stay calm.
- Listen carefully to the directions the teacher gives.
- Ask questions if you don't understand what to do.
- Read the entire first question and all the answer choices. Solve the problem and think of your own answer. Look to see if one of the choices is similar to yours.
- Get out your calculator or other mathematics manipulatives and try to work the problem another way to verify your answer.
- Read each test question carefully. Try to analyze what the question is really asking.
- If you are not sure of an answer to a question try these tips:
  1. Get rid of some answers that you know are not correct and then choose among the rest.
  2. Read through all of the answers very carefully, and then go back to the question. Sometimes you can pick up clues just by thinking about the different answers you have been given to choose from.
  3. If you get stuck on a question, skip it and come back to it later.
  4. It is ok to guess on this test. Try to make your best guess, but make sure you answer all questions, even if you have to guess wildly.
- Pace yourself. If you come to a difficult question, it may be better to skip it and answer other questions. Then come back and really focus on the difficult questions one at a time.
- This is not a timed test. If you need more time to finish the test, notify your teacher.

### After the test

- Before you turn your test in, check it over. Change an answer only if you have a good reason. Generally it is better to stick with your first choice.
- Make sure you have marked an answer for every question, even if you had to guess.
- Make sure your answer sheet is clearly marked with dark pencil. Erase any stray marks.
- Don't worry about the test once it is finished. Go on to do your best work on your other school assignments.