Some tips on how to answer multiple-choice questions (MCQs)





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General Advise

 The more you prepare yourself, the more these tips will help you. Follow the instructions on

www.uems-neuroboard.org

 Be aware of the fact that the closed book part contains questions related to the guidelines offered on the website.

About MCQ exams

- Multiple-choice questions: several possible answers, only one is the most correct one.
- There is a correction for guessing (see next slide). This implies there is no punishment for incorrect answers
- MCQ exams have a high number of questions (50-200) to get a reliable result and in order to give the candidate fair chance.
- Time is quite limited (usually around 1 min/question)

Correction for guessing

- In a series of questions with n options, the guessing rate equals to 1/n, so 25% for 4-option questions etc.
- In a series of 100 5-option questions, the number of questions to be answered correctly by chance statistically equals 20.
- This implies that 20 correctly answered questions result in a 0-score on a scale of 1-10, 40 correct answers in a 2.5, 60 in a 5, 80 in a 7.5, 100 in a 10 etc.

Some facts about MCQ exams

- MCQ exams are more objective towards the candidate.
- Poorly constructed questions may force the candidate in a wrong direction and this will appear in the statistical analysis.
- Questions with poor statistical features will be eliminated in order not to disavantage the candidates.

Self Knowledge

Answering MCQs is a specific ability that is not equally developed in every student.

Therefore: ask yourself:

- Am I good answering MCQs?
 (If your answer is YES, you may not need this presentation)
- How fast am I answering MCQs?
- Am I conservative or bold?
- Do I feel assertive or uncertain?
- Do I easily get confused with complex questions?

Reading questions

- Read the question with care.
- Ask yourself "What are they asking me to answer?".
- Then <u>think</u> of your answer first before reading the options
- Finally <u>look</u> for your answer in the options.
- In case of open book exams: <u>only</u> consult your reference sources if you do not feel certain. Most open book questions can be answered without using books so do not lose time with looking up everthing!

If your answer is not in the options

- Re-read the question and confirm that you have correctly understood it.
- Look for any plausible answer (even if it is not the best posible one).
- If no answer is plausible, you may ask the invigilator.
- Remind: statistically bad questions indicate that many students feel misled and will be removed from the exam afterward.
- You can leave the question for later: never get stuck, keep moving.

Some tactical considerations 1

- First go through the exam and answer the questions your are (pretty) sure of the answer straight away.
- Do not change these answers anymore or only by high exception. Intuition is usually subconscious knowledge: your first answer is usually the correct one.
- If you are unsure about the right answer, see if you can discard one or more of the options and then make a guess between the remaining options. Do not leave the question open for later. If possible, mark these questions to get back to them later on.

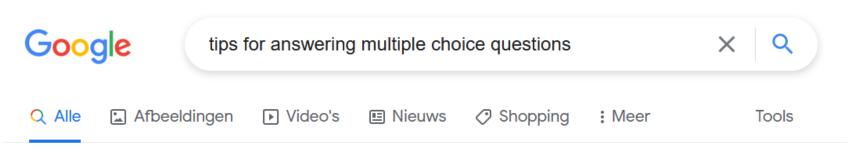
Some tactical considerations 2

- If you are bad on time: prioritize faster questions. All questions have the same value, so do not loose too much time on complex questions if that prevents you from answering other simpler ones.
- If you detect that you are making repetitive mistakes during the exam: maybe you should take a little rest (breathe, relax for a minute).
- The final review is useful to detect unnoticed errors, and to answer/re-think those questions that you left in the first round for later.

Controlling timing

- Final reviews are not mandatory. Relax.
- You should write the answers in the answer sheet or in the computer program immediately; do not leave that task for the end.
- Check intermediate waypoints (where should I be after 20-40-60 minutes, or what time should I have consumed after 20-40-60 questions...)
- If you finish early: deliver your exam after ONE final review. Do not review your answers once and again...

Further reading



Ongeveer 3.230.000.000 resultaten (0,57 seconden)

- Five Tips to Ace Your Multiple Choice Exams. ...
- Read the questions carefully. Make sure you understand what the question is asking.
- Answer the question without looking at the options. ...
- Eliminate the incorrect options. ...
- Answer all the questions. ...
- Manage your time. ...
- More resources for multiple choice questions.

https://www.utm.utoronto.ca > pdf > tip_sheets_study | PDF

Five Tips to Ace Your Multiple Choice Exams - University of ...