

MCA TEST TIPS: MATH STRATEGIES

MATH TEST ITEMS ASSESS STUDENTS IN:

- NUMBER SENSE
- PATTERNS, FUNCTIONS, AND ALGEBRA
- DATA ANALYSIS, STATISTICS, AND PROBABILITY
- SPATIAL SENSE, GEOMETRY, AND MEASUREMENT

MATH TIPS

- Make word problems a priority.
- Stress NUMBER SENSE.
Take time to find where, how, and in what context numbers are reported in the newspaper. Compare the area of a hockey rink or tennis court to help quantify your world and see the usefulness of numbers.
- Focus on estimation.
- Emphasize mental math versus always relying on a calculator.
- Practice basic facts.

BEFORE THE TEST

- Eat a nutritious breakfast on the morning of the test.
- Bring the right supplies (sharpened no. 2 pencils, calculator).
- Get adequate sleep the night before the test.
- Wear comfortable clothing on test day.

DURING THE TEST

- Read all parts of a question and the answer choices carefully before you choose an answer.
- Cross out obvious wrong answers.
- Skip any items you don't know, lightly mark the item you skipped, and come back to it later.
- If you are unsure of an answer, go with your first choice.
- Notice how words are emphasized (i.e. Underlined, **Bolded**, *Italicized*, or CAPITALIZED).
- Fill in the ovals on the answer sheet completely.
- Erase carefully and completely.
- Answer EVERY question.
- Review your answers.
If time permits, go back over the test as though it's your first time (with a "new set of eyes"). You'll be surprised by the mistakes you might find.