

CMT TEST-TAKING STRATEGIES FOR STUDENTS

You want every answer you give on the CMT to count! Sometimes you know the right answer, but it may be counted as wrong, or you may not get the full points - even though you knew the right answer.

This document is to help you make sure that the answers you give count each time, and that you know what to do to make sure you get as much credit for your answers as you deserve.

For all the CMT tests you will be taking:

- Get a good night's sleep every night during the CMT testing.
- Eat a good breakfast each morning.
- Come to school each day on time so that you are not late for the start of the test. Students who arrive late cannot take the test that day and must be scheduled for a make-up test.
- Your teacher will review the directions with you before the test begins. Be sure to ask questions if you don't understand. Don't pretend to understand if you do not. This is important!
- Don't worry about how fast or slow other students are going, even if they finish their tests before you do. Concentrate on your own test at all times.
- Keep your eyes on your own work. If you look around at other students, especially those sitting near you, your teacher may think you are reading their work. This could cause unnecessary trouble for you.
- Stay relaxed during each test. If you start to get nervous for any reason, take a few deep breaths to relax and then get back to work.
- Focus on the question you are working on; don't let your mind wander to other things.
- Always read the entire question carefully before answering. Don't make any assumptions or guesses about what the question might be until you read it.

Multiple-Choice Test-Taking Tips:

- Read the question before you look at the answer.
- Try to come up with your own answer first, before you look at the answer choices given. Then, read all the choices before selecting your answer. This way, the choices given on the test won't trick you or throw you off.
- Eliminate choices that you are sure are not correct.
- If you are not sure of the correct answer but can eliminate 2 of the choices, take a guess and select an answer. **DO NOT SKIP ANY QUESTION!**
- Don't keep changing your answer. Usually, your first choice is the right one, unless you have misread the answer or do more thinking.

Filling in the 'bubbles' for your Multiple-Choice answers:

- Use pencils only. Ink or highlighter pens cannot be scored and will be counted as "skipped". You will receive "0" points for any answer in ink.
- Mark only 1 answer choice. If you mark more than 1, you will receive "0" points for that answer.
- Fill in the answer bubble completely, but be very careful to stay inside the circle. If you make marks outside the circle, it may be misread as either a different answer or 2 answers and will receive "0" points.
- If you have time at the end of the test, go back over your answer marks to make sure you have bubbled one and only one answer for each question. Use your eraser to get rid of "stray marks" around the answer bubbles (being careful not to erase your real answer!).

Open-Ended Test Taking Tips:

These questions ask you to fill in your answer in your own writing. For example, in math you may be asked to write a story problem of your own. To get full credit for these kind of questions, be sure to:

- Write clearly and neatly so that the person scoring your answer can read and know exactly what you meant.
- Try not to leave an answer blank. Even if you don't get the exact answer, you will usually be given some points (unless your answer is completely wrong).
- If you can think up more than one answer for a question, choose the one you are most sure about. Never give 2 different answers, because the person scoring your test will not know which you thought was right.
- Read the question carefully and make sure that you answer everything that it asks for. Some open-ended questions have more than one part.

Essay Writing Test Taking Tips:

You will be given a writing "prompt". You will be asked to respond to the prompt in your own writing. To get most credit for your writing, be sure to:

- Think before you start writing.
- Make sure that you write about what you are being asked, not some other topic.
- Be as neat as possible. Neater writing usually helps you to get a higher score.
- Focus on one main idea per paragraph.
- If you have time left over at the end, proof your writing and correct any errors.

