

Strategies for Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ's)

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H.S.C. 1998-1999

Instructions

- ➔ To move from slide to slide, click the left hand mouse button.
- ➔ If a blank slide appears, click the button again.
- ➔ Go at your own pace. Read each screen carefully before going on to the next.

In school Multiple Choice Questions are used in...

Science

History

Geography

Math

French

English

and other subject areas



MCQ's aren't just used in school!

They are also used in some really important places such as...

- ✓ your driving test
- ✓ Bronze Cross Lifesaving
- ✓ SCUBA certification
- ✓ Pilot's licence
- ✓ And TOEFL, LSAT and GMAT tests are entirely MCQ's



Multiple Choice

Or

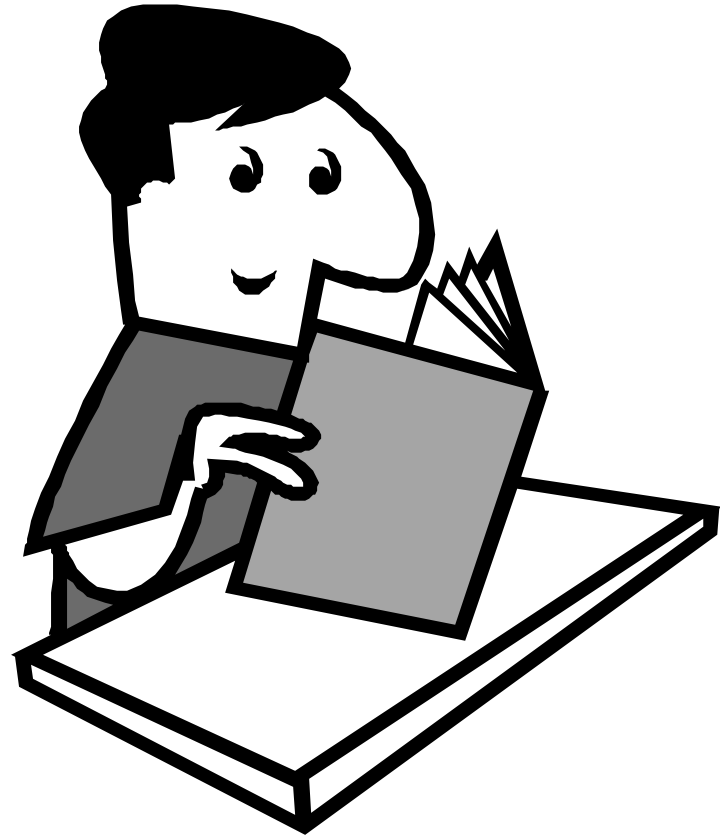
Multiple Guess



**We tend to guess
the answers to
Multiple Choice
Questions rather
than actually
answering them
properly!**



So first you
must READ
the question!



**Only then can
you CHOOSE
an answer!**

eg. A

B ✓

C

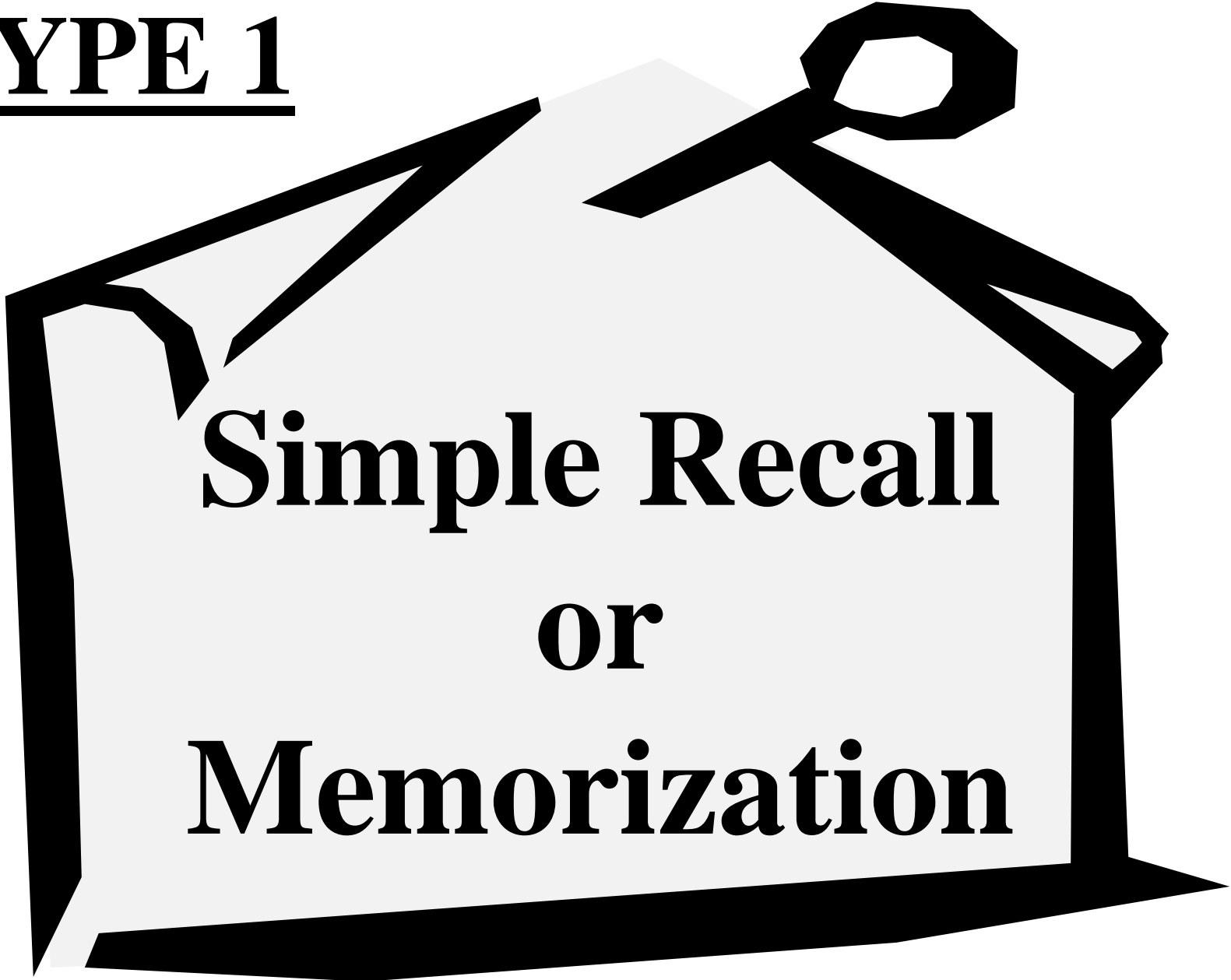
**There are
different types
of Multiple
Choice Questions.**

**Each requires
a different
approach!**



**Before you start,
you must decide
on what type
of question is
being asked.**

TYPE 1



**Simple Recall
or
Memorization**

**You must use your memory to
come up with the answer.**

- Think about what answer you would give if the possible answers weren't given to you.

**What is the
home of the
Tiger Cats?**



Toronto? No!

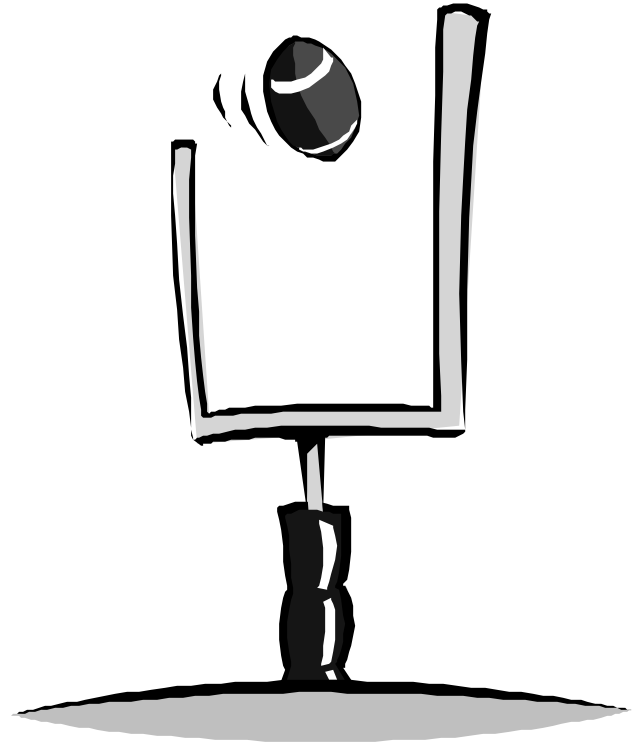
Vancouver? No!

Hamilton! Yes!



And the possible answers are...

- A.** Toronto
- B.** Hamilton
- C.** Winnipeg
- D.** Calgary





Let's try

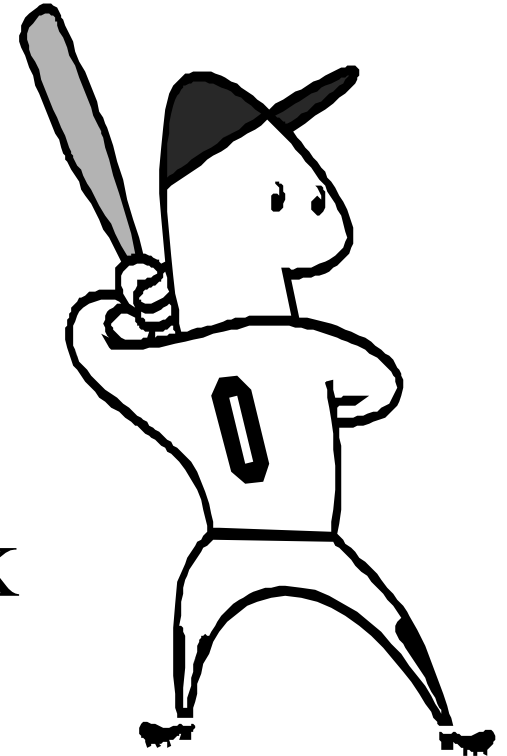
another recall

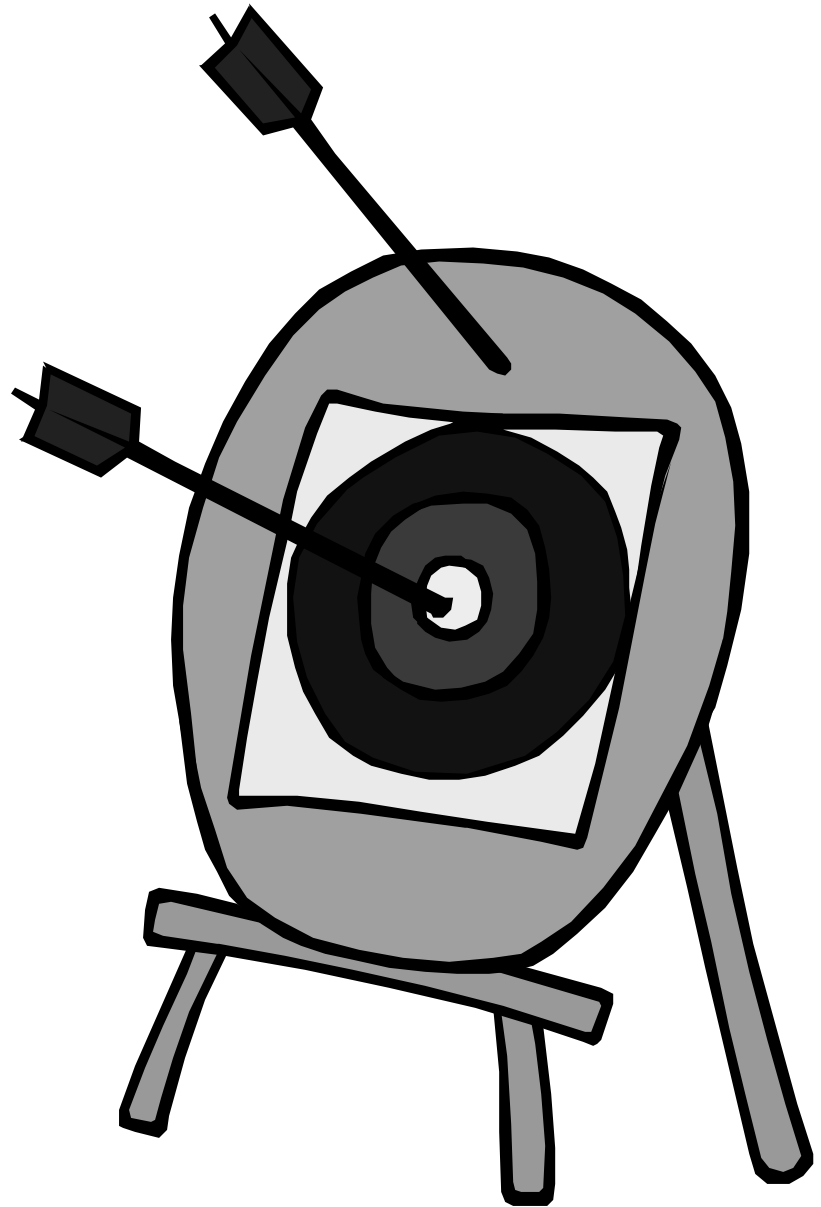
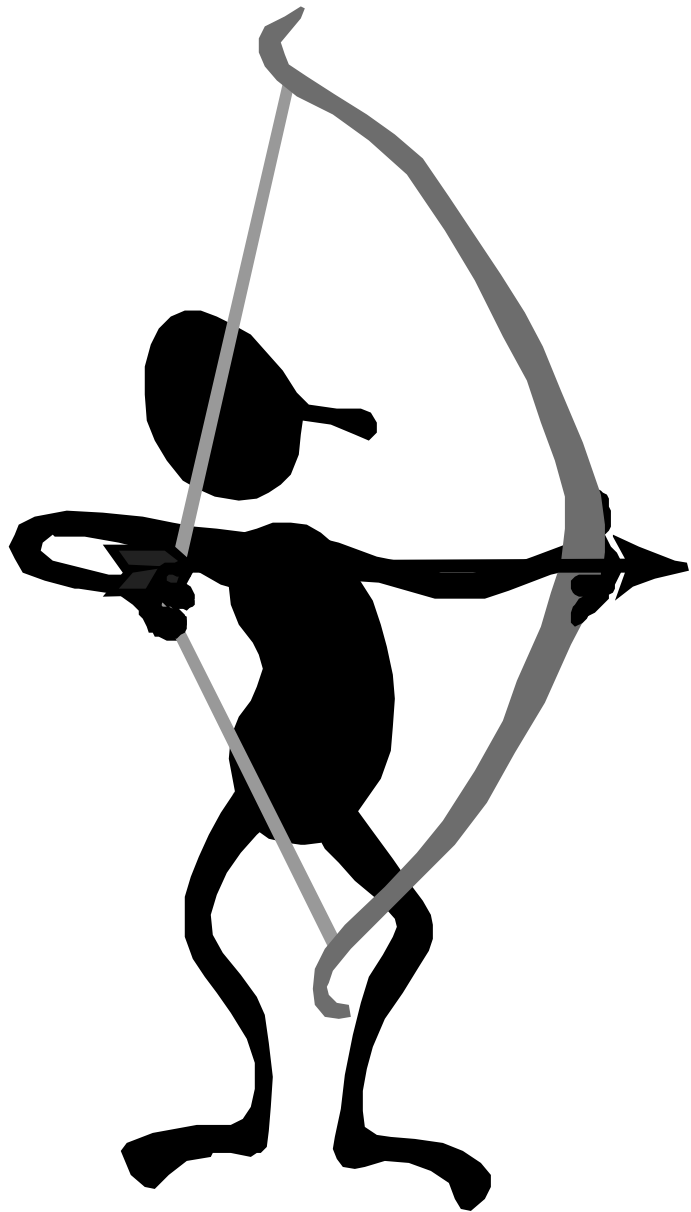
example!

How many years in a row did the Blue Jays win the World Series?

➔ I know it was more than once but not more than three times.

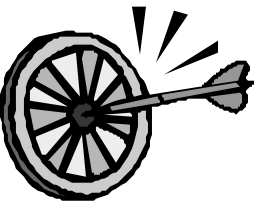
➔ Therefore it must be two or three but I rather think only twice in fact.





How many years in a row did the Blue Jays win the World Series?

A. 1

B. 2 

C. 3

D. 4

What if you have no idea of what the answer is??!!

- Then, and only then look at the list of choices.
- Seeing the list may jog your memory.

**Or you may have to
guess!**



Which Spice Girl left the group first?



and the Spice Girls are...

Nasty?

Nice?

Big?

Little?



- A. Posh?**
 - B. Sporty?**
 - C. Ginger?**
 - D. Baby?**
- So pick one!**



TYPE 2



Lists

**Carefully read the question
and identify the rules for
selection.**

**MARK key words
and special instructions
such as
NOT, ALL or MOST.**

**From the following list, select
the city which is nearest to an
ocean.**

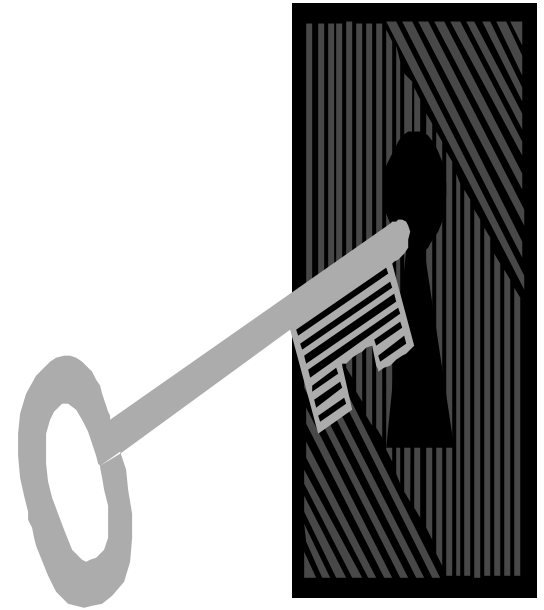
A. Toronto

B. Calgary

C. British Columbia

D. Montreal

**Note the key
words in the
question!**



**From the following list, select
the city which is nearest to an
ocean.**

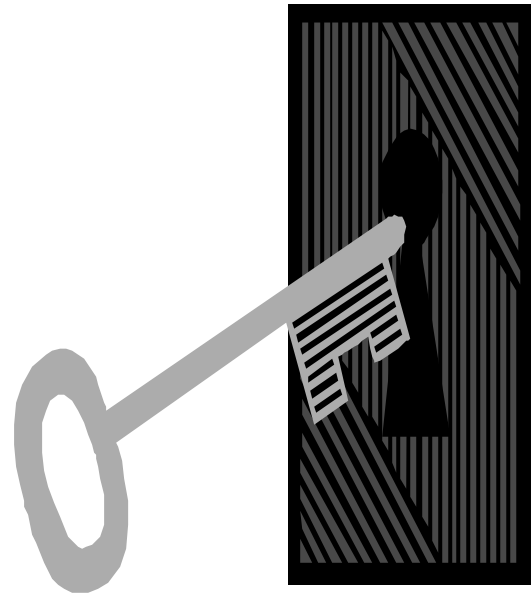
A. Toronto

B. Calgary

C. British Columbia

D. Montreal

**Apply the key
words when
selecting your
answer.**





~~A. Toronto~~

~~B. Calgary~~

~~C. British Columbia???~~

~~D. Montreal~~

Which of the following lists contains names of only capital cities of countries:

- A.** New York, Ottawa, London
- B.** Paris, Tokyo, Lima
- C.** Beijing, Toronto, Cairo
- D.** Sydney, Madrid, Pretoria

Read each list carefully.

- Think about what country each city is in.
- Do you know the capital?



**If you know the city
is a capital, mark
it clearly on the
paper.**



**Which of the following lists
contains names of only capital
cities of countries:**

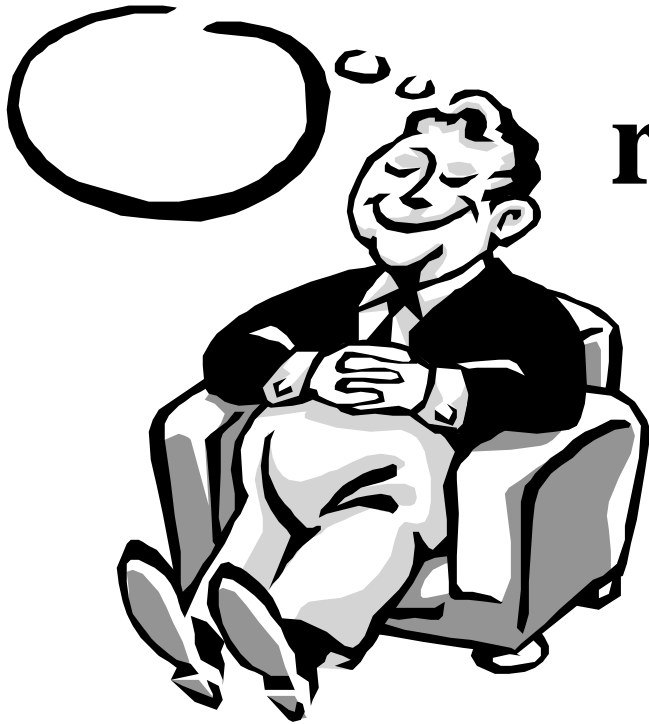
- A.** New York, Ottawa✓, London✓
- B.** Paris ✓, Tokyo ✓, Lima
- C.** Beijing ✓, Toronto, Cairo
- D.** Sydney, Madrid, Pretoria

*Time and effort are both
wasted if you have to keep
going back and trying to
remember what you decided
the first time around.*

**Use your brain to think about
how to work out answers.**

- Don't use it to store things you have just remembered.
- As you think of things, **write them down** before you forget them!

**Think about what
you DO know
rather than worrying
about what you
DON'T know!**



So for this question... think about...

- ❖ Where in the country is the city located?
- ❖ What other major cities are there in the country?
- ❖ What do you remember about the various cities?

TYPE 3

Calculations



First, perform the calculation,
preferably on
paper, as if
you hadn't
been given
any answers.

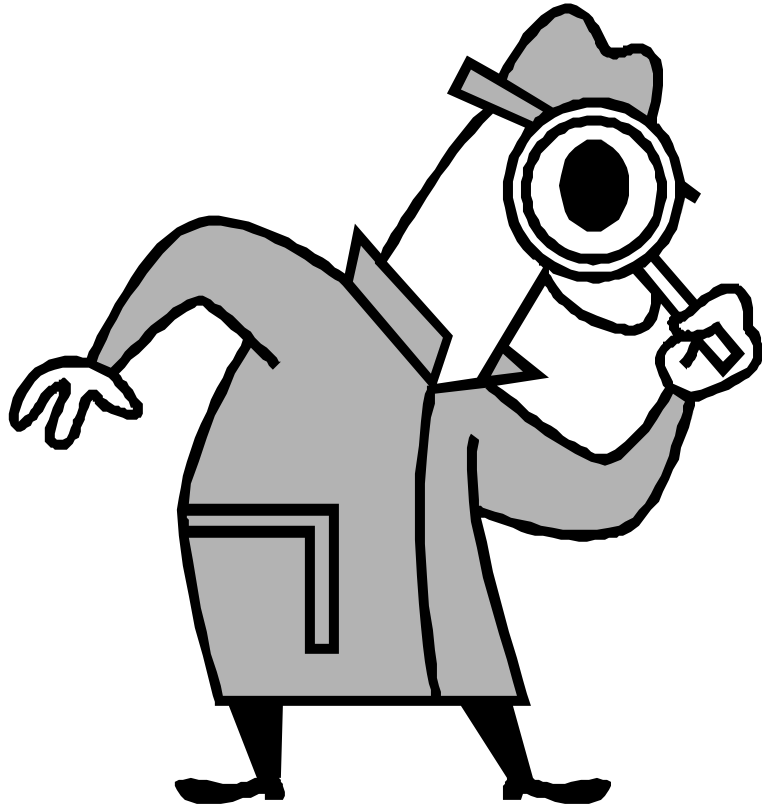


What is the value of Y if

$$2Y + 12 = 6Y - 4$$

Perform the calculation.

**NOW look at the
answers given!**



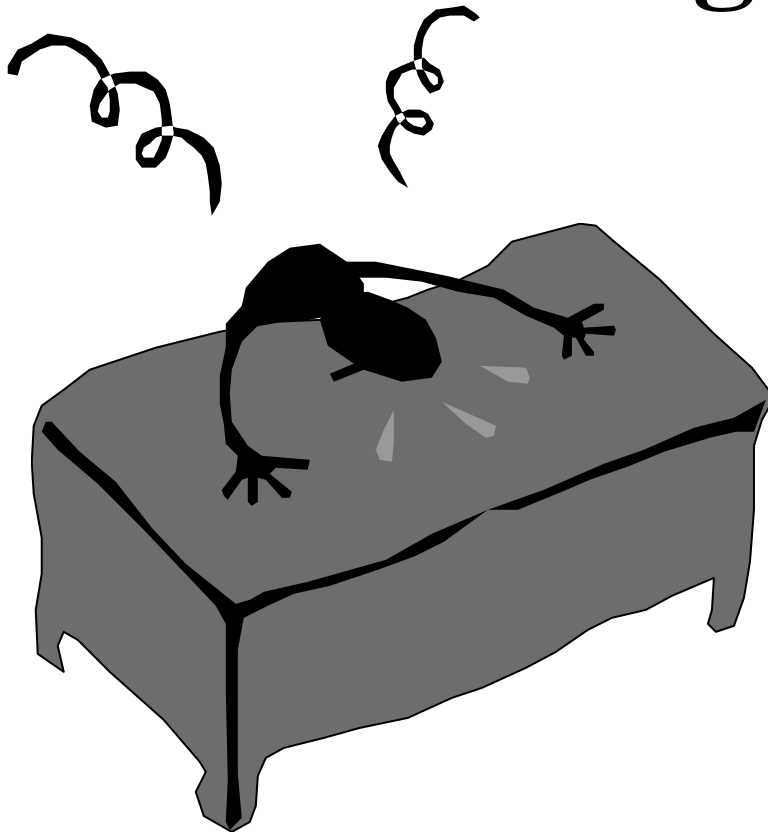
A. 1

B. 2

C. 3

D. 4

**What if your answer doesn't
agree with any of the answers
given?**



**Check your
work!!!**

$$2Y + 12 = 6Y - 4$$

$$(2 \times 4) + 12 = (6 \times 4) - 4$$

$$8 + 12 = 24 - 4$$

$$20 = 20$$

$$Y = 4$$

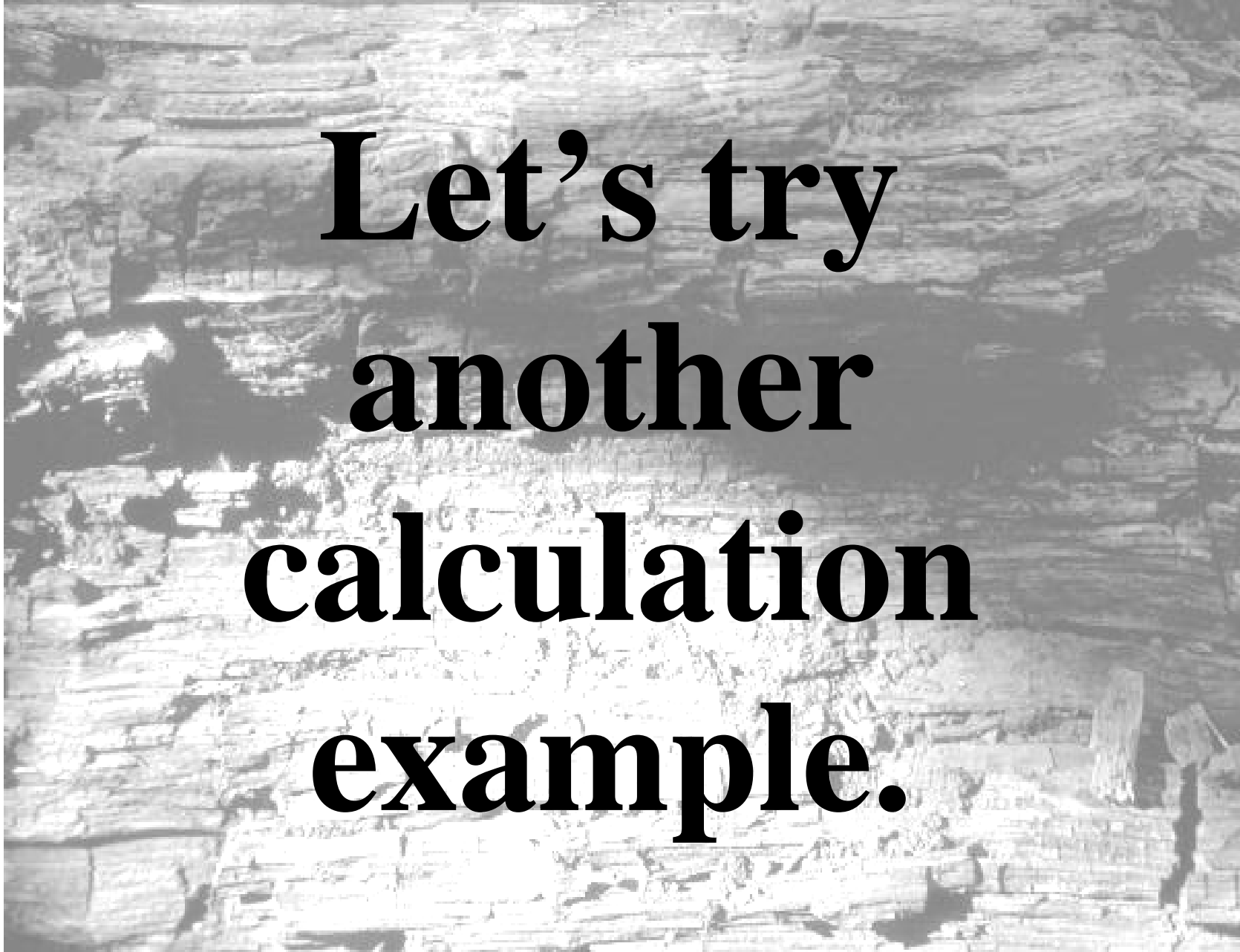
That's a relief!!!

A. 1

B. 2 ✓

C. 3

D. 4

A grayscale photograph of a rocky, layered cliff face. The rock shows distinct horizontal strata and some vertical fissures. A faint grid pattern is overlaid on the image. The text is centered and reads:

**Let's try
another
calculation
example.**

**What is the
area of a
circle with
a radius of
4 cm?**



Once again, perform the calculations as if you were not given any answers.

$$A = \pi r^2$$

$$A = 3.14 \times 4^2$$

$$A = 12.56 \text{ cm}^2$$

Now look at the answers...

A. 6.28 cm² No!

B. 10.56 cm² No!

C. 25.12 cm² No!

D. None of these Yes!

**What if your
answer does
not agree with
those given?**



Don't just go for the “none of these” answer!

- ❑ Redo the calculation.
- ❑ If you get the same as before and it still doesn't match any of those given, **THEN** chose “none of these”!

TYPE 4



**Questions
requiring some
reasoning.**

Read *all* the answers.

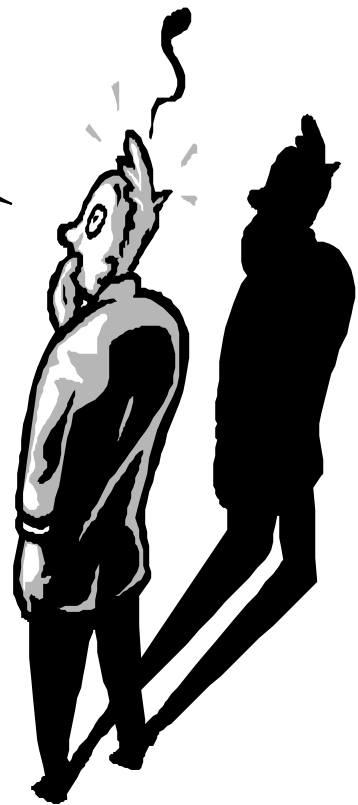
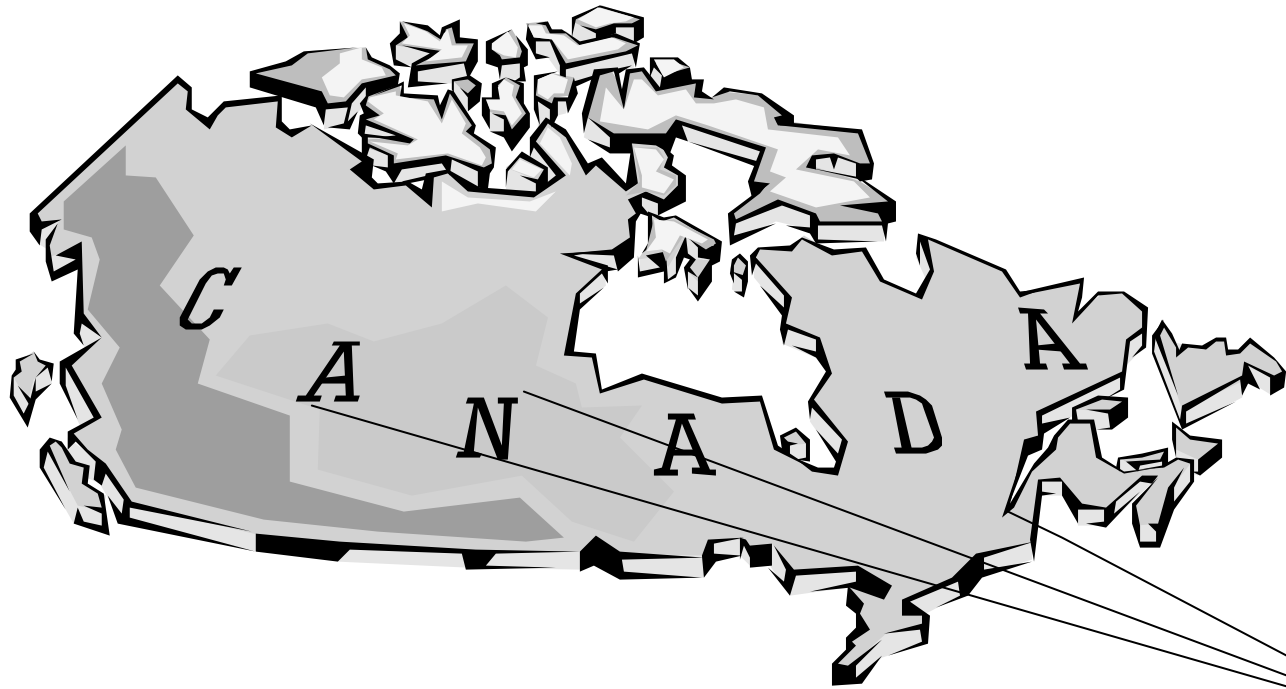
- ❖ Consider **each one** carefully in terms of the question.

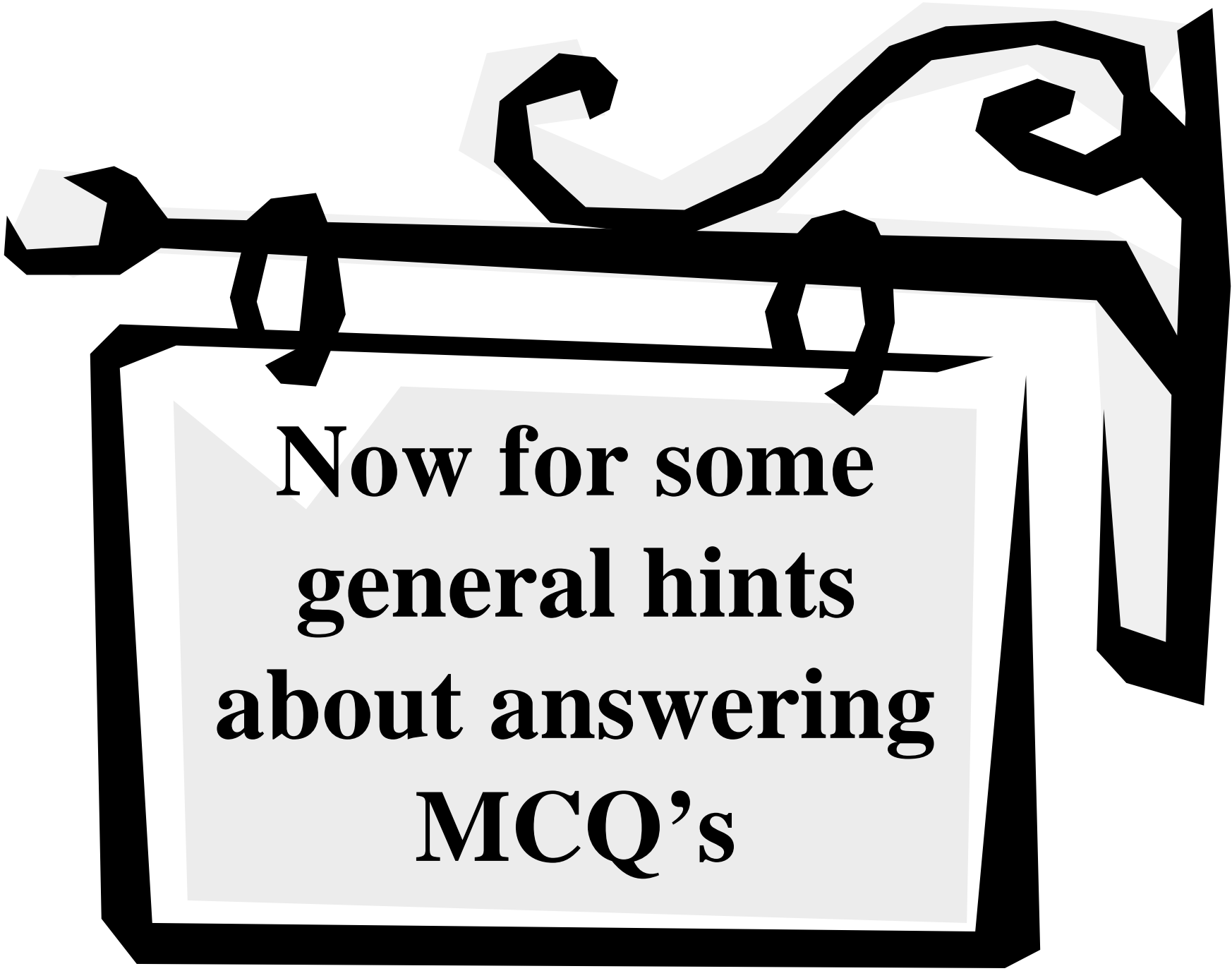
Once again...

- Make sure you have marked all the key words in the question.

Which of the following statements
is **true**?

- A.** Calgary is the capital of Alberta.
- B.** Manitoba is situated between Ontario and Saskatchewan.
- C.** Ontario has a coastline on all of the Great Lakes.
- D.** It is impossible to drive from Hamilton to Nova Scotia without passing through Quebec.

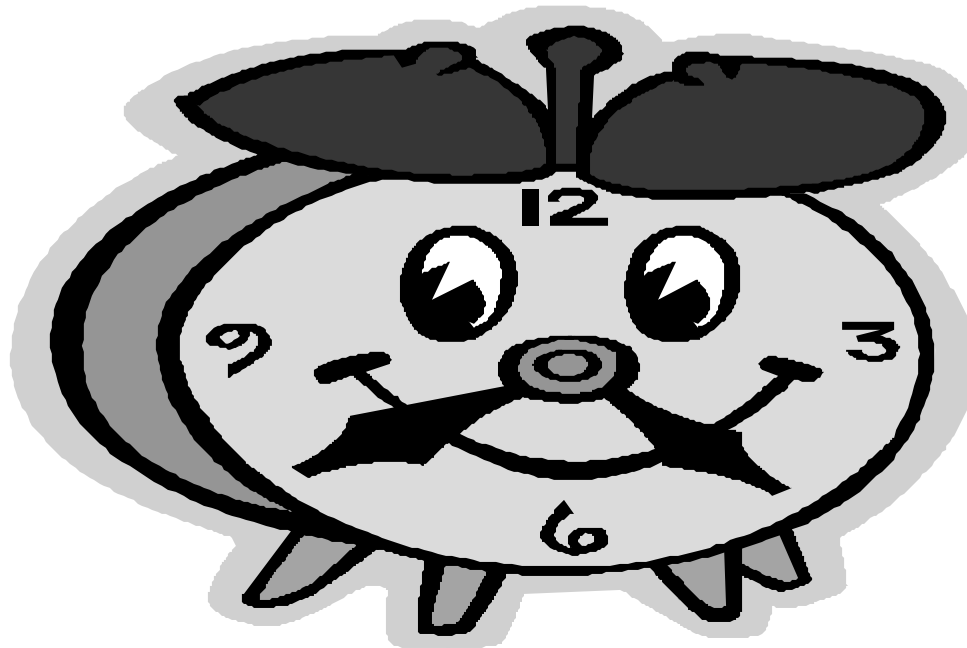




**Now for some
general hints
about answering
MCQ's**

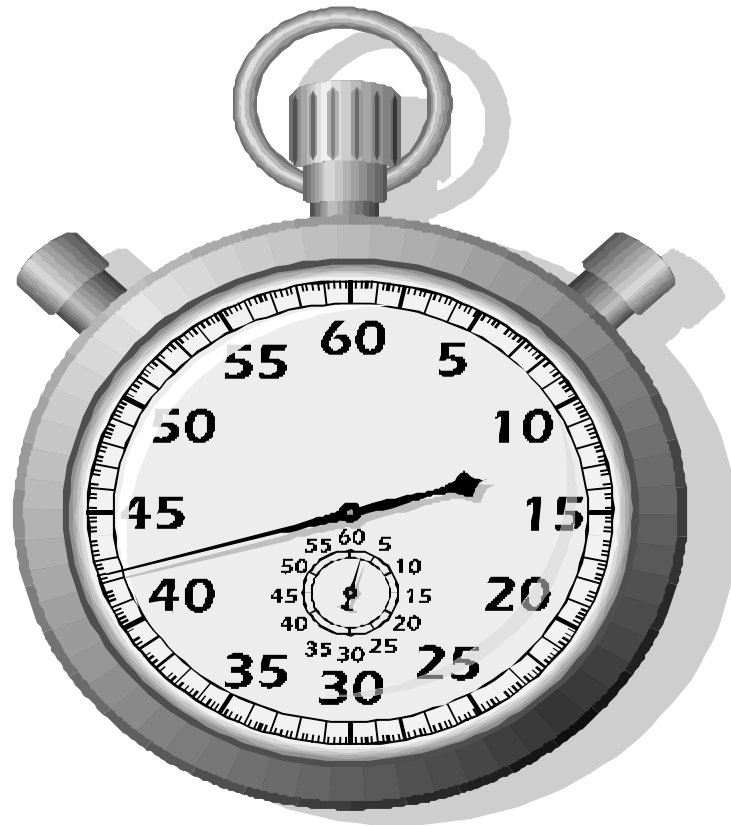
Hint 1 - Timing

In a timed test involving MCQ's, you
will have about
1 minute per question
on average.



Some questions will
take you more time,
some less!

**A minute is quite a long
time!**



**Try watching the next slide
for a whole minute without
taking your eyes off the
screen.**

>You will have time to yourself?



Hint 2 - Indicating answers

Carefully read the
instructions about how to
indicate the answer you
have chosen.

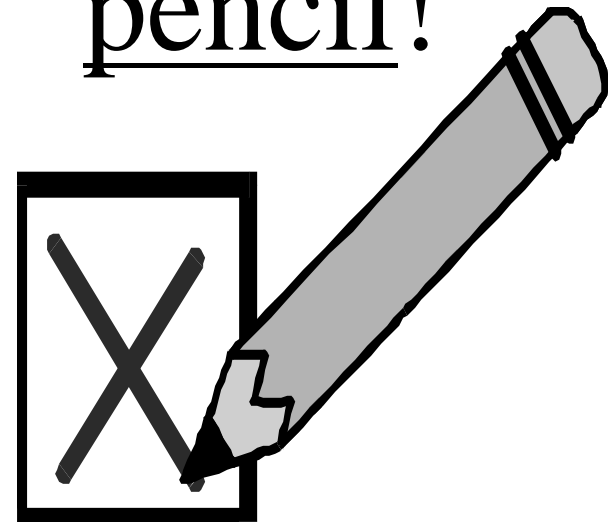
Follow the instructions exactly

- If you mark your chosen answers using the wrong method, you may get marks deducted.

If it says....

X use a pencil, use a pencil!

X mark with an X,
mark with an X!



**If the test is marked
by a computer,
you could end up
with a zero
if you ignore
the instructions!**



**Take your time to pick the
right answer first time around.**



Hint 3 - Starting the exam



When you are
told to start the
exam...

• • •

- ❖ Make sure you read all the instructions carefully. Highlight any really important points.
Avoid losing marks carelessly.
- ❖ Look over the paper. Get a feel for the exam as a whole.

Start at the beginning and work your way through. Don't skip around.

☐ Try not to leave questions out. You'll waste time finding them at the end and then re-reading them all over again.

**Don't think in terms of a quick
guess now and them coming back
later and giving the questions
more thought.**

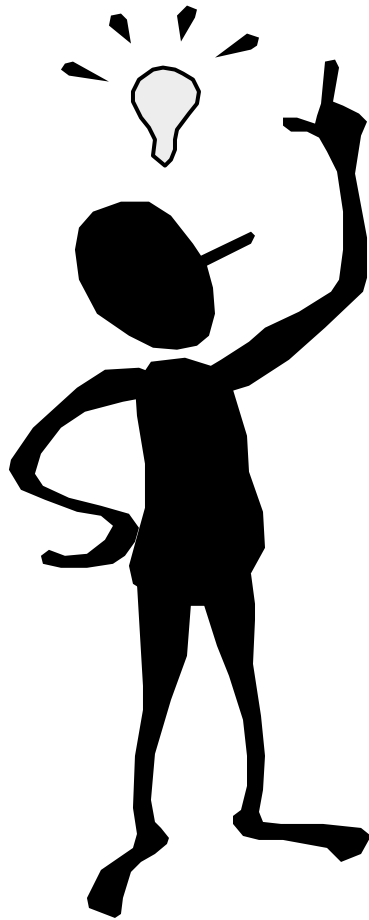
You may run out of time!

**If you really don't have a clue
about a question, go on to
another, BUT...**

- mark the question clearly so you can find it again,
- come back to it when you've finished all the ones you can do.

Hint 4 - Reality check

Remember...



If you have done your work during the course properly, you should be able to answer the questions. Teachers don't ask impossible or trick questions. Difficult maybe!

If you haven't worked during the course...

**Don't stress
yourself!**



**You are only as good as you
are right now!**

- ❖ Don't sit there thinking "if only"!
- ❖ Don't worry about anything except answering the question in front of you.

Read each question carefully!

- Think about what you DO know rather than worrying about what you DON'T know.
- You aren't expected to know the answer to every question.
- **You are expected to be able to work out the answer from what you have learned.**

**If you feel very stressed out, take
a 1 minute break.
Close your eyes and relax.**

- But don't stop in the middle of a question.
- This doesn't mean however, you can take a break between every question!!!



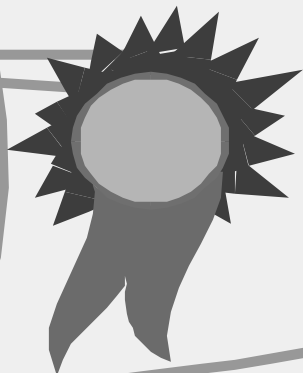
If you have a “system” that works for you, don’t change it!

However, if your “system” doesn’t seem to work very well, think about changing it and using the ideas in this program.

**Change can be a pain, but
sometimes it's necessary for
*success.***



Good Luck!
Bonne Chance!



- We would like to thank tutorials 1005 and 1101 of 1998/1999 for their help in preparing this presentation.
- We would also like to thank Mr. Beaver, Ms. Zimmerman & Mr. Grewal for their thoughtful input.
- Thank you to Ms. Ciparis for the revisions.

Ms. C. McNeil

Mr. A. Philpot

Revised July 2003