

### Quiz Instructions:

A multiple-choice quiz rarely comes with instructions because the test format is so simple. However, the majority of high school students do not know how to take one of these tests, and scores often improve with simple coaching. After teaching SAT courses several years ago I now try to encourage proper multiple-choice techniques, even on a short quiz. The number one problem students have with this format is they stop reading the answers when they reach an answer they think is correct, and standardized tests are written to exploit this behavior. Students should read through all the answers, crossing out incorrect ones as they go, and then pick the one they think is the most correct. Even if a student can only eliminate two answers the chance of randomly picking the correct answer doubles. To enforce this method, I give points for circling the correct answer, and also give points for crossing out incorrect answers.

### How I score this quiz:

4 points for circling the correct answer (only one circle allowed)

1 point for crossing out an incorrect answer

-2 points for crossing out the correct answer

Giving -2 points for crossing out the correct answer encourages students to think about what they are crossing out. I found that without the -2 penalty students would circle an answer and then cross out all the rest without reading them. The students found this scoring system a little confusing the first time around, needed a quick review the second time, and they were comfortable with the rules by the third time I gave them a quiz. The downside to scoring like this is it takes a little longer to grade and it does not translate well into an electronic format (you can still apply the technique by writing "a b c d" on a piece of paper and crossing them out)