

## Test-Taking Strategies

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The following strategies are suggested to help you do your best on the PCAT:

- Familiarize yourself with the test by reviewing test content descriptions and with the sample items and Practice Tests available at the PCAT website. Pearson does not endorse or recommend any other commercially available test preparation materials.
- Be prepared physically and mentally by getting a good night's sleep, eating what you consider a normal meal the morning of the test, and dressing comfortably.
- The heating or air conditioning systems may not be under the control of the Test Center staff, so dress in a manner that will allow you to adapt to different room temperatures.
- Allow plenty of time to get to your Test Center.
- Answer as many multiple-choice items as time allows. Your scores are based on the number of items you answer correctly. Points are not deducted for incorrect responses. If you are not sure which answer choice is correct for an item, eliminate as many incorrect options as you can first. If you have doubts about an answer to an item, change your answer only if you have a valid reason.
- Do not dwell on items that are unfamiliar or difficult, since all the multiple-choice items count the same. In each of the five multiple-choice subtests, first answer items about which you are confident, and then return to answer the more difficult items, if time permits.
- Work quickly but carefully and check regularly to make sure you are marking your answers in the correct places on the Answer Booklet.
- For the Writing sections, take a few moments to first plan your essay on the page provided, and allow yourself time to proofread your essay carefully when finished.
- Go to the PCAT website for sample test items and correct answers.