

Strategies for success

Use these critical-thinking strategies for test-taking success.

- Read each question thoroughly and reword it to be sure you understand what's being asked. Don't stop reading halfway through because you assume you understand.
- Answer the question before reviewing the choices. This may lead you to the correct answer.
- Identify key words and phrases in the stem of the question to find clues about what's expected in the answer.
- Look for patterns and relationships when identifying the problem and applying knowledge. Use this information to eliminate incorrect answers and narrow down correct ones.

<https://www.myamericannurse.com/test-taking-tips/>



Testing Tips

The Nursing Professor

Tip # 1	<p>Read the entire question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • then read ALL of the answer choices through once. • then eliminate answers
Tip # 2	<p>Identify KEY words:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority; Best; Initial; Next; Always; Never
Tip # 3	<p>Focus on PRIORITIZATION With PRIORITY questions, ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "If I could only do ONE thing and then had to leave the patient's room, what would I do?" (i.e. what 1 intervention would benefit your patient the most)
Tip # 4	<p>Ask yourself:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "What will the outcome be if I choose this answer?"
Tip # 5	<p>Identify answer choices that deny patient's feelings or needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is typically NOT the answer you want, unless the question has a negative stem (i.e. which would the nurse NEVER do...)
Tip # 6	<p>If ANY part of the answer choice is wrong, the entire answer is wrong and should be eliminated</p>
Tip # 7	<p>Remember Maslow's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st – physical needs • 2nd – safety needs • 3rd – psychosocial needs
Tip # 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always, always, always review rationales. • Analyze tests (real and practice) to see why you are missing questions.





<https://nursingschoolofsuccess.com/>

Megan McClintock Nursing School Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrUNE4ELnH4FrpWq17KMKiQ/videos>

Nurse Sarah Nursing Videos

[RegisteredNurseRN - YouTube](#)

ULTIMATE GUIDE TO SATA QUESTIONS: 6 STEP PROCESS



1

COVER UP ALL OF THE ANSWERS



READ THE QUESTION...
MAKE SURE TO **UNDERSTAND**
THE QUESTION AND **WHAT IT IS ASKING**



2



3

UNCOVER THE FIRST ANSWER

RE-READ THE QUESTION AND **SUBSEQUENT ANSWER**.
PHRASE IT AS A **TRUE OR FALSE** QUESTION.
ASK YOURSELF IF THIS STATEMENT FULFILLS
THE NEED OF THE QUESTION BEING ASKED.



4



5

REPEAT THESE **STEPS** TILL YOU HAVE GONE
THROUGH THE ENTIRETY OF THE QUESTION.

ONCE YOU HAVE THE ANSWER AND
ARE **CONFIDENT** IN IT, **MOVE ON!**



6



NRSNG

<https://nursing.com/blog/how-to-deal-with-test-anxiety/>

**NurseReview.Org - Test Taking Strategies
For Nursing Students (SlideShare website)**

<https://www.slideshare.net/nclexvideos/test-taking-strategies-for-nursing-students>



<https://nursing.csuci.edu/currentstudents/successstrategiestesttaking.pdf>

“ESSENTIAL” QUESTIONS

- ▶ **When the question asks what is ESSENTIAL – THINK SAFETY and Prevention of Serious Complications**
- ▶ **Essential means that you must do it and IT CANNOT BE LEFT UNDONE!**
- ▶ **When setting priorities remember MASLOW’s HIERACHY of needs. The first level needs come first**
- ▶ **REMEMBER – “Keep them breathing, keep them safe.”**
- ▶ **Also consider which actions will prevent complications – these are essential things that you must do to keep the patient safe and alive.**

For Priority Questions

REMEMBER: MANS

- ▶ **Maslow** - basic needs take priority over higher needs (air, water, food, safety)
 - ▶ **ABC's** (Keep them breathing - look for things that could affect airway, breathing or circulation - these take priority)
 - ▶ **Nursing Process** - remember **ADPIE** - always **ASSESS** before you intervene. Also it's usually something that requires a license to do (like check the NG tube for placement or assess fetal heart tones) Those things that assistive personnel can do are usually not the thing that the **NURSE must** do.
 - ▶ Think **SAFETY** - what will keep the patient/nurse **SAFE**
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Extra On-Line Resources

- o <https://nurseslabs.com/20-nclex-tips-strategies-every-nursing-students-know/>
- o <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fEPIIOr1Ng>
- o <https://www.myamericannurse.com/testtaking-tips/>
- o <https://www.youtube.com/@RegisteredNurseRN>
(Nurse Sarah)
- o <https://www.educationcorner.com/nursingtest-taking-strategies/>
- o <https://rnspeak.com/practice-test-2/>