

## Science: Tips and Tricks

This section is not going to give you easy 'tricks' to always get the answer. These tips and tricks are patterns to keep an eye out for and help to guide you towards the right answers or maximize your score.

If you struggle with timing, try to go to the questions first.

- Sometimes reading the passage text can take up a lot of time because of the scientific terms and length of the text. If you are someone that gets overwhelmed by the scientific jargon or has a hard time understanding the passage text anyway, go straight to the questions instead. Use your question types as a way to navigate through the data and make this section easier for you.
- If you feel like you NEED to read the passage text to understand how to answer the questions, try to limit the time you put into reading it and pick out information rather than trying to understand every single detail. Underlining these key pieces of information makes it easier to keep track of it as well.

Process of elimination is your friend

- If you're unsure what the answer is right away, cross out the ones you know are NOT correct until you get to an answer.
- Even if you only narrow it down to two options, a 50/50 chance of getting it right is better than a 25% chance

It is an open book test!

- Just like the reading section, all the data is in the palm of your hands!

Write information off to the side

- Sometimes data is written out of order or it can be hard to keep track of all the numbers. Don't hesitate to write on your booklet to reorganize yourself: circle keywords, draw arrows to represent increasing and decreasing trends, etc. If it helps you get the answer right, do it!

Give yourself a chance to understand the graph/table

- Sometimes we get too into the zone of answering the questions quickly that we forget to take a step back and understand the data. If the data looks confusing, pause and take a moment to analyze it; 30 sec is all you need! After you've done that, THEN worry about the question.
  - What is the main title and labels?
  - What are my variables and their units?
  - Are there multiple graphs or relationships that I'm comparing?
  - What information does this data give me?

If CVP takes a long time, do it last

- First make sure that you know how to identify the CVP passage. There's only one in each test.
- CVP can take more time than the other passages. You want to stay as close as you can to 5min and at most 6:30min. If this is a passage that takes you a long time to do, make it the last passage that you do. That way you can spend more time on questions that can be completed faster and get more points that way. Still plan to complete the CVP but at least you are restricted to whatever time you have left.

Use Keywords in the questions and/or answer choices to help you when you don't know what to look at

- Keywords in the questions can help you determine what data set to look at, what to do with that data set, and what kind of answer the question is looking for.
- Circle or underline keywords as you read the question and match them to the data. It won't tell you exactly what your answer is but it gives you direction as to where to look.

Don't get caught up in the subject matter

- Sometimes the science topics can be intimidating but remember that this test is just on analyzing data. There *might* be 2 or 3 questions that have to do with actual scientific knowledge but the rest are in interpreting data. As long as you're not going for a 36, you can guess on those 2 or 3 questions and put more attention on the rest of the test.
- The company owner has her degree in math and science is not her area of expertise BUT her knowledge in interpreting data is what gets her a 36 in the science section! You can do it!

Practice, practice, practice!

- The more familiar you are with analyzing data and the question types, the better you'll feel about this section. Don't be afraid to ask us for extra science material.