Strategies for Answering Questions

1. Cover the answer choices.
2. Read the last sentence FIRST.
3. Look for “doctors” (words that would change the meaning if deleted, often opposites, i.e., gain/loss, early/later, ab-/ad-, etc.).
4. Predict answer as though the question were a short-answer or open-ended question rather than multiple-choice.

OR

Brainstorm what you DO know based on what is in the stem. (i.e. What it makes you think of, What is related, etc.)

5. Look at THREE (3) choices – get rid of at least one.
6. Continue this process uncovering one at a time until you have it down to two (2) possible answers.
7. Look at the two choices left. Think about HOW are they DIFFERENT. Is there one answer that is MORE correct because of a “doctor” in the question.
8. Select the BEST answer based on your ACTIVE analysis of the question.

Test Question Analysis

WHY was a question/s missed????

a. Misreading (i.e., reading efferent as afferent, independent as dependent...); Skipped over something important by reading too fast and/or making assumptions.

b. Misinterpreted (thought about “what ifs” and other extraneous matter NOT in the question).

c. Rushed: Gave up too quickly.

d. Level of analysis: (Bloom’s taxonomy). Are they asking a knowledge question or is it an application and analysis question?

e. Knowledge: Did not know the information needed to problem-solve for the answer.