



Writing Multiple-Choice Tests and Exams

Academic Learning Centre



**University
of Manitoba**



TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES — ACKNOWLEDGEMENT —

The University of Manitoba campuses are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation.

We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.



Preparation for Tests and Exams

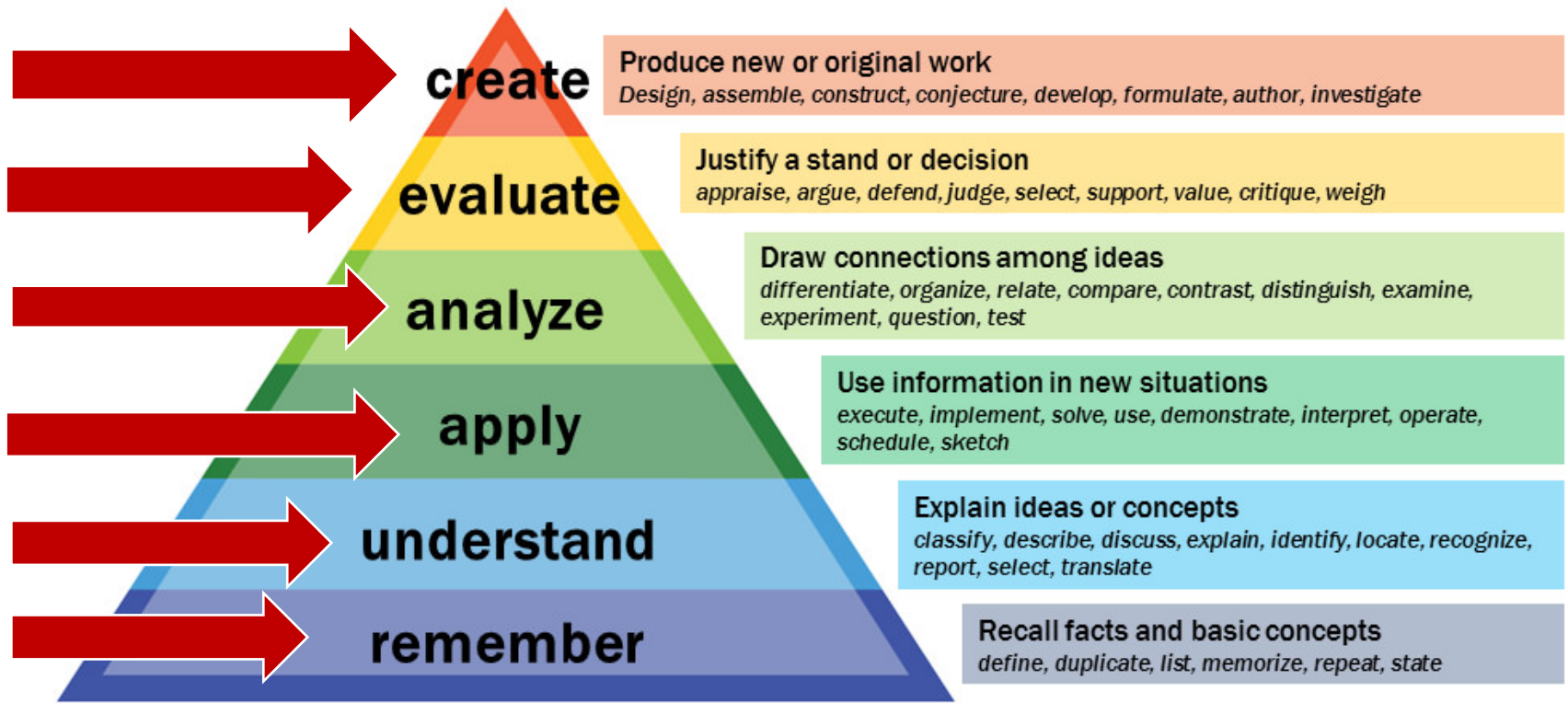
Note the time
and date of the
test or exam!



- Know what to expect
- Plan for the test or exam
- Practice in similar conditions

Learning Assessment

Bloom's Taxonomy



 Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching



Knowledge-Based Question

The effect of primacy on impression formation was first studied in 1957 by:

- A. Freud
- B. Luchins
- C. Seyle
- D. Maslow
- E. Watson



Comprehension-Based Question

According to research on first impressions, the *primacy effect* is a term used to describe:

- A. the impact of one's initial impression on others that becomes difficult to change.
- B. how a person judges others through the lens of his or her own cultural framework.
- C. beliefs about what character traits will occur simultaneously in people.



Application-Based Question

You are at a party. A person walks up to you and accidentally spills a drink all over your new pants. You begin to dislike the person, even though everybody else claims that the person is really nice. Your reason can be attributed to:

- A. the co-variation rule
- B. implicit personality theory
- C. the actor observer bias
- D. the primacy effect



Application Based Question-Exercise

Def.

According to social psychologists, there is a cognitive bias known as the primacy effect that overemphasizes the importance of first

Cause

impressions. This is generally assumed to be because people are especially attentive during introductions.

For example, an employer is unlikely to hire an applicant that is late to a job interview, due to the employer's negative first impression.



Tips for Multiple-Choice Tests and Exams

Pay careful attention to:

- Absolutes (ex: always, only, never, every)
- Negatives and double negatives
- Word associations
- Unfamiliar content
- Similar responses
- Contrasting responses
- All of the above



Absolutes

Watch out for words like:

Always, never, all, none, every, only

ex: Mercury is *always* in a liquid state. **False**

Usually, often, generally, seldom, typically

ex: Rembrandt *typically* painted portraits. **True**



According to basic marketing principles and purchasing behavior:

- A. a consumer **always** decides what to buy based on their economic needs.
- B. a consumer will **occasionally** make a purchase based on their perception of advertising information.



Negatives and Double-Negatives

Negatives: look for the false responses

ex: Which of the following is not part of the cardiac cycle?

ex: All of the following are found in plant cells except

Double negatives: rewrite the sentence

ex: Which of the following is ~~not uncommon~~?

Which of the following is common?



Word Association

Watch for word clues in both the stem and the response.

Ex: Marrying someone outside of the group to which you belong is defined as:

- A. Polyandry
- B. Endogamy
- C. Exogamy
- D. Monogamy



Sensory memory can be defined as:

- A. memory that groups distinct pieces of information together.
- B. memory that is permanent and limited only by storage capacity.
- C.** memory that briefly holds information in a person's senses.



Unfamiliar Content

Be wary of response items that contain content that you do not understand.

- A. Torpor is an alternative physiological state, during which metabolism decreases and heart rate slows down.
- B. Torpor is a physiological state that is conducive to somatic dematriculation of the ganglion.



Similar Responses

When items are very similar, there is a strong possibility that one is correct. Study them closely.

- A. Discrimination is detrimental because it depletes a country's social, economic, and political resources.

- B. Discrimination is detrimental because it depletes a country's social, economic, and natural resources.



Contrasting Responses

When you are faced with two options that are exactly opposite, there is a chance that one is the correct choice.

ex: Torpor is characterized by (a/an):

- A. increase in heart rate.
- B. decrease in heart rate.
- C. increase in food consumption.



“All of the above” Responses

Which of the following would be considered typical, if you were living in a tropical climate?

- A. There are forests filled with natural vegetation.
- B. The climate is warm and wet in both summer and winter.
- C. Rainfall usually comes from daily convective rains
- D. All of the above.



Overall, Use a Systematic Approach

- Cover the alternatives and focus on the question
- Produce your own answer
- Read each response one at a time
- Eliminate wrong answers
- Identify the best possible response



Systematic Approach Exercise

Encoding information in long-term memory is improved by which of the following?

- A. rehearsal T
 - B. meaningful elaboration ?
 - C. forming visual images T
-
- D. a and b
 - E. a and c
 - F. b and c
 - G. a, b, and c



Revision


Should students ever change their responses?

- If there is a reason to change the response, change it!

What if it is not possible to revise responses once they are entered?

- Focus on what can be controlled and move forward.





Reviewing the Marked Test or Exam

- If possible, review your responses.
- You may find a marking error or a poorly communicated question. **Advocate for yourself!**
- Analyze response errors:
 - Omission,
 - careless/ running out of time,
 - prioritization,
 - application,
 - or mastery errors

Academic Learning Centre Services



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