Thursday Math Practice

+

Tips for the GED Test

Helpful Habits

- **Answer the easy questions first**

  - **"Skip early and skip often"**

  - **If you get through all the easy questions you'll get more points than if you take a long time with a hard question and don't finish the test**

- **Use the flag button and review screen to get unstuck**

  - **If you do a problem and your answer isn't in the list – don't reread over and over because you'll tend to read it the same. Flag the question and come back**

Helpful Habits

- **Take questions at an easy pace, don't rush**

    - **Reading quickly results in more errors, don't practice with a timer, just practice until you are ready to take the test**

- **Process of elimination ("POE")**

    - **Eliminating some answers increases the chance that whichever answer you pick will happen to be right**

- **Choose a "guess" letter**

    - **If you guess "A." one time and "B." the next the chances of luck are lower than if you always pick the same letter**

First pass, second pass

- You don't have to solve every problem to pass the test.

- First pass: begin at the beginning and solve every problem that comes easily to you.

- If you come to a problem and have no idea how to solve it, click the "Flag for Review" icon in the right upper corner and move on. This saves it for later.

First pass, second pass

- When you finish the first pass a "Question Review" button will show you the questions you flagged along the way.

- Sometimes when you look at the question again you realize you know what to do.

- Sometimes you'll be able to eliminate a couple choices, and choose between the remaining ones

- Sometimes you will have no ideas, and then you want to guess, never leave a question unanswered. This is when you use the letter that you've chosen as your "guess" answer.

-

Process of Elimination POE

- This month, 1,500 new members joined a particular health club. The club's goal was 2,000 new members. What percentage of the club's goal was achieved?

- (There is nothing to eliminate on a 'drag and drop question.)
  see next slide

Process of Elimination POE

- This month, 1,500 new members joined a particular health club. The club's goal was 2,000 new members. What percentage of the club's goal was achieved?

- A. 75%

- B. 82%

- C.112%

- D. 150%

But if the question is multiple choice you have a chance with any answer (25%) and if you can eliminate 2 answers you have a better chance (50%). So if helps if you can quickly cross of any answers. Did the club reach their goal?

Process of Elimination POE

- Should you bother to do this when you know how to do a problem?

- Yes! Why?

- All of us get nervous taking tests and we can make little mistakes we'd never normally make. If we do a problem and come up with an impossible answer that we have already eliminated by logic, we know we should do the problem again, and best to leave it and come back later rather than try it right away.

Choosing one letter to use every time you have no idea
which the answer is correct

Choosing one letter to use every time you have no idea
which the answer is correct

A C   D B D C   A Correct answers   7 correct

- C   A   A C B D   B Guess at random 0 correct

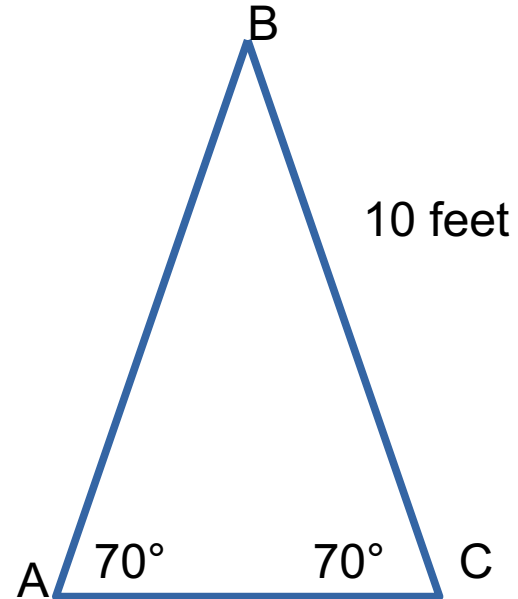- A   A   A A A A   A One guess letter   2 correct

Trap answers

- Test writers put in "traps"

- For example, subtracting two numbers instead of adding them, or doing only part of a problem.

- Read questions carefully, even writing notes as you go along

- In a 2-step problem, if you do the 1 step and see the answer as a choice before you do the 2 step, you can eliminate that answer.

Practice

- Eric buys a coat from a mail-order catalog. The coat costs $140, plus a $8 shipping charge and a $2 handling fee. If there is a 10% sales tax on the entire amount, what would be the <u>total</u> cost of buying the coat? And, which answer is a "trap"?

- A. $135

- B. $150

- C. $160

- D. $165

Using Graphics to Estimate Answers

- If angle B and angle C both equal 70 degrees, what is the length AB? Click on the number and drag it into the box.

- Answers: 3 feet   7 feet   9 feet   10 feet 12 feet 15 feet

- To solve: take a piece of paper, hold it up to side BC and mark the length on the paper, compare it to AB. The line is the same length. Therefor AB = 10 feet

- (This can be solved using geometry, but if you don't remember how, you can use logic and still get the right answer)

B

10 feet

70°   70°   C
A

"Red Herring"

- Something that draws attention away from the matter being discussed or dealt with.

- The most important part of any GED math problem is the last line, which is where the test writers tell you what they really want.

"Red Herring"

- This year ¾ of employees at Acme made contributions to a voluntary retirement fund. Last year, only ⅔ of the employees contributed. If there are now 2,100 employees, how many contributed to the voluntary retirement fund this year?

- What is the question? Can you write it in "Math?"

- Which line is the Red Herring – the unnecessary, distracting information?