

How to Succeed on Tests Using the Michael Jackson Method*

(*The Michael Jackson Method is in no way affiliated with nor endorsed by Michael Jackson or his estate in any way)

1. **Believe in yourself** (Don't ever tell yourself you're going to do poorly on a test—any test. Believe in your ability to figure out the answers. Promise yourself to give it your best effort from start to finish, and believe in your ability to perform in a manner that accurately reflects your level of knowledge.)
2. **Eliminate wrong answers** (Not sure about an answer? Make an *educated* guess. Don't stop and say, "I don't know." Focus on what you DO know. Eliminate answers you know are wrong. Narrow it down and make a solid educated guess from a limited number of possibilities.)
3. **Apply yourself to every question** (Your goal should be to get every single answer right. **This doesn't mean you're expected to get them all right or that there's pressure on you to do so**--there most certainly shouldn't be. It just means that you should leave the test knowing you tried as hard as you could on every question, making good, educated guesses on the ones you were less confident about.)
4. **Time it out** (Be aware of time constraints, but don't hurry unnecessarily. Tests are not races. Just make sure to pace yourself so that you don't run out of time. Give each question careful consideration; just don't get stuck for too long on a tough one. You can skip it and come back to it if necessary.)
5. **Inspect your answers** (Got a little extra time on your hands at the end of the test? Go back over your answers—particularly if there are any questions you found extra difficult. It never hurts to double check. Use your time wisely. Don't sit around and twiddle your thumbs when you could be using that time to make sure you did as well on the test as you possibly could have done.)
6. **Treat it like a game** (You won't help yourself by thinking of tests as intimidating things that are out to get you and make you fail. Instead, look at the test as a fun challenge and a chance to strut your stuff and be proud of yourself. The test is a game, and you're playing to win. And above all else, remember that nothing terrible is going to happen to you if you don't do quite as well on the test as you had hoped. As long as you gave it your best shot, that's all that matters.)