

PIRATES

Hughes, C.A., Schumaker, J.B., Deshler, D.D., & Mercer, C. (1987). *Test-taking strategy*. Lawrence, KS: Excel Enterprises.

This test taking strategy is designed to assist students with preparation, taking, evaluating and keeping a positive mindset when taking tests.

Prepare to succeed

- Put the acronym PIRATES and your name on the test
- Prioritize test sections and allot time
- Say something positive and start within 2 minutes

Inspect the instruction

- Read all of the instructions and underline how and where to answer
- Notice any special requirements

Read, remember, reduce

- Read the whole question
- Remember it with memory strategies
- Reduce your alternatives

Answer or Abandon

- If you know the answer, write it
- If you're not sure, abandon the question for the moment

Turn back

- Go back to abandoned items at the end of the test
- Tell yourself to earn more points

Estimate

- Estimate unknown answers using the sub-strategy **ACE**:
 - **A**void absolutes (e.g. "All")
 - **C**hoose the longest or most detailed alternative
 - **E**liminate identical alternatives

Survey

- Survey the test to be sure all items are answered
- Switch answers only if you are sure they are wrong