CORE CONCEPTS & CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

COMMON ERRORS

- Misreading the question
- Using the wrong information
- Lacking knowledge
- Bubbling in the wrong answer

WHEN TO SKIP

- If you don't know how to answer the question
- If the question is long, and you're running out of time
- Remember to still bubble in a "guess"

AVOID FATIGUE

- You get the same point for an easy question as a hard question, so collect the easy points first (you don't have to read the passages or answer the questions in a certain order)
- Don't burn out on a question that you don't know how to solve

GUESSING

- Eliminate one or two answer choices before guessing
- Look for patterns when guessing
- Answer every question (every bubble should be filled in)

TRACKING YOUR PROGRESS

	verbal	math	total score	*retake to reinforce new concepts* verbal	math	total score
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

NOTES:

FREE PRACTICE MATERIALS

www.collegeboard.com

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READING STRATEGY

INTRODUCTION

Always first read the passage introduction to find out who, what, where, when, and why

ZOOM OUT

Zooming out will help you figure out the tone and main idea

"BUT"

Key information about the main idea usually comes after "but," "however," "although," etc.

MAP THE PASSAGE

You don't have to remember key details or themes, just where to find them

TONE

The author's attitude (positive, negative, or neutral)

DUAL PASSAGES

Answer dual passages one passage at a time

MAIN IDEA

Focus on identifying the main idea and refer back to the main idea when answering questions

ELIMINATE

Avoid answers that are too specific, too broad, extreme, offensive, reverse relationship, opposite to or unrelated to the main idea

OWN WORDS

Cover the answer choices and first answer the question using your own words then pick the answer choice that best matches your idea

STRATEGIZE

Find what works best for you (reading the questions first and then the passage or vice versa). If you choose to skim the passage, don't skim the questions

READ

To improve your reading speed and comprehension, read a variety of challenging material

www.carlabarry.com/read

LINE REFERENCES

- Read before and after line references
- Plug in the line reference into the previous question to see which line fits best (for evidence questions

WRITING & LANGUAGE STRATEGY

BEWARE

-ing, being, it, was, and long answer choices

CONSISTENCY

Keep pronouns consistent (you....you or one....one)

PARALLELISM

Parallel sentence structure (-ing, -ing, -ing, ... to, to, to... noun, noun, noun

SEMICOLON

Semicolon separates two complete sentences (SV ; SV)

MODIFIERS

Check what comes after the comma
Ex: Born in Mexico, Frida Kahlo

MEANING

- transitions
- adding/deleting sentence
- placing sentences

REDUNDANCY

Be concise and avoid redundancy
- Avoid overly wordy phrases
- Combine simple sentences

PRONOUNS

- Pronouns must be clear in reference and number
- Plural: they, them, their, themselves
- Singular: it, she, him, + collective nouns

WORD PAIRS

neither....nor
either....or
not only....but also
as.....as

COMMAS

- SV, and SV
- dependent clause, independent clause
- ,non essential words/phrases,
- used to separate items in a list
- after introductory words or phrases
- to separate adjectives whose order could be reversed

VERBS

- Subject and verb agreement (eliminate prepositional phrases)
- See time (1800s, summer, etc.), think tense

PICK ONE

who vs. whom
who's vs. whose
than vs. then
they're, their, there
like vs. as

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MATH STRATEGY

ZOOM IN

Zoom in to find what the question is asking
Be wary of two-part questions

THINK

Before jumping in and doing the problem, think about what math concept the problem is addressing

MEMORIZE

Key equations, formulas, and the directions at the beginning of each math section

STRATEGY

- Look for patterns and the most reasonable answer choice
- Pick which questions to answer first
- Keep track of time (same point for hard question as easy question)

SHOW YOUR WORK

Don't do problems in your head or only on the calculator. This will enable you to check your work if time allows

GRAPHS

- Identify the slope, x-intercept(s), and y-intercept(s)
- Read the labels
- Pay attention to the scale!
- "xy-plane" --> graph

PICK NUMBERS

- Pick numbers for variables (don't pick "1" or numbers that are multiples of each other
- Solve problem using your numbers
- Plug numbers into answer choices & pick the answer that matches yours

PARABOLAS

vertex form _____

y-intercept form _____

x-intercept form _____

CALCULATOR

- MATH --> FRAC, nth roots, numeric solver, and absolute value
- APPS --> POLYSMLT, INEQUALZ, and CONICS
- Y =
- i

MEAN, MEDIAN, MODE & THE RANGE

- Mean = average
- Median is the # in the middle after rearranging from low to high
- Mode the # that appears the most
- Range is the difference between the lowest and highest values

MORE PARABOLAS

equation for x value of vertex _____

(+) leading coefficient_____

(-) leading coefficient _____

PRIME NUMBERS

Prime numbers are positive integers that are only divisible by themselves and "1" (1 is not prime | no negative prime numbers)

CONJUGATE

Used to rationalize complex numbers and radicals in the denominator

EQUATION OF A CIRCLE

_____

_____

INTEGERS

Whole numbers, including zero and negative whole numbers

DOMAIN & RANGE

Domain (look at x-axis)
Range (look at y-axis)

PEMDAS

Parentheses, exponents, multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction

PROBABILITY

(desired possibilities)/(total possibilities)
and → multiply probabilities
or → add probabilities

TRIANGLES

- Always draw right triangles
- Similar triangles have the same respective proportions & trigonometric ratios
- Radii of a circle form isoceles triangles

PERCENTAGE

If original amount is not given, pick "100"

- part/whole
- difference/original
- increased by x percent → 1 + decimal
- decreased by x percent → 1 - decimal

WORD PROBLEMS

of | multiplication
sum | addition
difference | subtraction
product | multiplication
quotient | division

EQUATIONS FOR A LINE

slope intercept _____

standard _____

point slope _____

FACTORING

_____

_____

_____

Y-INT, X-INT, & SLOPE

x-intercept _____

y-intercept _____

slope _____

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MATH STRATEGY CONTINUED

AREA OF A SECTOR

_____

ARC LENGTH

_____

VARIABLE EXPONENTS

- Make the same base
- Set exponents equal to each other
- Solve

SOHCAHTOA

SIN _____

COS _____

TAN _____

PARALLEL LINES

- alternate interior angles
- alternate exterior angles
- corresponding angles
- vertical angles

DISTANCE

distance = (rate)(time)

_____

TRIG TABLE

	0	30	45	60	90
SINθ					
COSθ					

i

- Square root of -1
- Using your calculator

_____

MIDPOINT

_____

QUADRATIC FORMULA
& THE DISCRIMINANT

_____

discriminant _____

(+) _____

(-) _____

zero _____

ABSOLUTE VALUE

- Isolate the absolute value expression
- Set the quantity inside the absolute value notation equal to + and - the quantity on the other side of the equation
- Solve each equation for the unknown
- Check answers by plugging them back into the absolute value expression

NO SOLUTION VS. INFINITE SOLUTIONS

no solution _____

infinite solutions _____

EXPONENT RULES

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

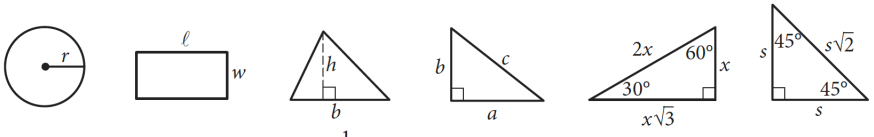
_____

_____

_____

REFERENCE INFORMATION
PROVIDED AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH MATH SECTION

REFERENCE



$A = \pi r^2$
$C = 2\pi r$

$A = \ell w$

$A = \frac{1}{2}bh$

$c^2 = a^2 + b^2$

Special Right Triangles

$V = \ell wh$

$V = \pi r^2 h$

$V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$

$V = \frac{1}{3}\pi r^2 h$

$V = \frac{1}{3}\ell wh$

The number of degrees of arc in a circle is 360.
The number of radians of arc in a circle is 2π.
The sum of the measures in degrees of the angles of a triangle is 180.

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