

Questions on Main Idea

-Examine the question for words and phrases that tell you that it is asking about the selection as a whole.

-KEY WORDS: **main idea, subject, theme, as a whole, in general, mostly, or for the most part.**

-Begin by looking at all the answers. Eliminate obviously incorrect answers, and then concentrate on the remaining answers.

-If a question is asking about the overall **main idea, subject, or theme of the selection, make sure the answer you choose deals with the selection as a whole, not just a part of the selection.**

Questions about Sequence:

-Look for key words like: first, next, then, after, and finally.

-Pay attention to dates and time that appear in the selection

-Words that identify the day, time of the day, or the season are clues about sequence.

(Next Tuesday, this evening, in the spring)

Questions on vocabulary:

-When you encounter a new word, underline it.

-Notice the relationship among words and phrases...look for clues to help figure out the meaning of the unfamiliar word.

-Watch for restatement that expresses the same idea (The portal, or gate, was wide open).

-Notice the use of key words such as **and** and **also** that may indicate a comparison.

-Look for key words such as **but, rather, and on the other hand, that may introduce a contrast**

Questions on Inference and Prediction:

-Always base your inference and predictions on the facts that you know from the reading and from prior knowledge.

-Try to eliminate as many wrong answers, and then use reasoning to decide among the remaining questions.

-Sometimes you can infer a specific fact from a general statement

-Sometimes you can infer a general truth from specific facts in the selection. If the story says: *Tony Santucci fails to return Jerry's greeting. Tony stares right through Jerry. Tony*

flees from Jerry... You might draw the conclusion that Tony does not want to associate with Jerry.

Questions on Cause & Effect:

- Look for words such as **cause, effect, as a result of, because, therefore, and so.**
- Remember that, simply because one event follows another, does not mean it was caused by the first.
- Read carefully to determine the relationship between two events or facts.

General...

- In Multiple choice questions,** when you come to a question and you do not know the answer, move on to the next. If you have time, return to the question.
- Performance task questions:** Look for multiple parts to the question. Answer all parts. Use support from the passage...not your idea...**Answer ALL THE QUESTIONS.**