

BASIC RULES FOR TEST-TAKING SUCCESS

- 1. Know the parts of a test question and how to read them**
- 2. Read the question carefully before looking at the options; identify key words in the stem**
- 3. Identify the theme of the item, and base it on information provided in the stem; don't assume information that is not given**
- 4. Answer difficult questions by eliminating the obviously incorrect responses first; then select the best of the remaining options**
- 5. Select responses that are therapeutic, show respect, and communicate acceptance; eliminate responses that are bizarre, inappropriate, and punitive**
- 6. Know the basic principles that guide the practice of nursing**
- 7. Look for patterns in your performance and flaws in your thinking. Analyze your test-taking behaviors, then establish strategies to correct these problems**
- 8. Manage your time effectively during test-taking**
- 9. Do not change answers without good reason or sound rationale**
- 10. Choose options that are within the realm of nursing. Be able to differentiate the need for nursing judgment from the need for physician judgment**