



## Options

- The grammar/tense of each distractor should be consistent with the stem.
- Distractors should be parallel in form. For example, four complete-sentence options could have parallel construction such as starting with a verb and cover similar content.
- Distractors should be similar in length.
- When numeric options are used, the options should be listed in numeric order and in a single format. For example, order numbers from lowest in value to highest.
- Use no more than four answer options. There should be only one correct, best answer choice for each item.
- Avoid including “All of the Above,” “None of the Above,” True/False, “Both A and B” type distractors as answer choices.

## CONTENT GUIDELINES FOR MULTIPLE-CHOICE ITEM WRITING

### General Guidelines

- Construct each item to assess one educational learning or instructional objective.
- Avoid textbook, verbatim phrasing when developing the item.
- Avoid items based on opinions. Never use phrasing such as “What would you ... do,” “ ... use,” “ ... try,” and so on.

### Stem

- Word the stem positively; the stem should not contain negatively phrased items (for example, those with except or not in the lead-in question).
- The stem should be structured where a learner could answer the question without first seeing the options available.
- The stem should not contain irrelevant or superfluous information.

### Options

- Distractors should be plausible.
- Distractors should be written clearly and approximately homogeneous in content, length, and grammar. All options must address the same content.
- Distractors should be mutually exclusive.
- Distractors should be free from clues as to which response is correct.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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