

# TAKS Online Resources for Mathematics

<b>1. TAKS Study Guides</b>	<a href="http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/guides/study/index.html">http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/guides/study/index.html</a>
<b>2. TAKS Released Tests and Answer Keys (Hard Copies)</b>	<a href="http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/release/taks/index.html">http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/release/taks/index.html</a>
<b>3. Online Interactive Versions – TAKS Released Tests (Scored Online)</b>	<a href="http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/online/index.html">http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/online/index.html</a>
<b>4. TAKS Information Booklet with Sample Problems</b>	<a href="http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/taks/booklets/math/math_xl.pdf">http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/taks/booklets/math/math_xl.pdf</a>
<b>5. TAKS Testing Calendars</b>	<a href="http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/admin/calendar/index.html">http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/admin/calendar/index.html</a>
<b>6. Formula Chart</b>	<a href="http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/taks/math/Grade_9_10_11XL_Math_Chart.pdf">http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/taks/math/Grade_9_10_11XL_Math_Chart.pdf</a>

# Problem Solving Strategies for Mathematics

## What Is a Problem-Solving Strategy?

A problem-solving strategy is a plan for solving a problem. Different strategies work better for different types of problems. Sometimes you can use more than one strategy to solve a problem. As you practice solving problems, you will discover which strategies you prefer and which work best in various situations.

Some problem-solving strategies include

- drawing a picture;
- looking for a pattern;
- guessing and checking;
- acting it out;
- making a table;
- working a simpler problem; and
- working backwards.

*Source: TAKS Study Guide, Exit Level Mathematics, Texas Education Agency, 2003*

# TAKS Preparation Tips

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Physical Readiness</b></li></ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Get a good night's sleep.</li><li>2. Eat a healthy breakfast.</li><li>3. Wear comfortable clothing, as long as you follow school dress code.</li><li>4. Do not forget to take medications as prescribed by your doctor.</li><li>5. If you are supposed to wear glasses or contacts, wear them.</li></ol>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Reduce Anxiety</b></li></ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Be on time to school.</li><li>2. Pace yourself during the test. Remember you have as much time as you need.</li><li>3. Don't worry about the whole test at once. Tackle questions one at a time.</li><li>4. Don't "score" yourself as you take the test.</li><li>5. Don't look for letter patterns of correct answers.</li><li>6. Don't panic if you have a memory lapse or mental block. This is normal. Go on to the next item and come back to the trouble spot later.</li><li>7. Don't expect to <i>know</i> the answer to every question. Expect some items to be too hard. Just do your best.</li><li>8. Avoid unnecessary clock-watching, but do be aware of the time.</li><li>9. Ignore other test takers.</li><li>10. Think positively.</li><li>11. Don't give up!</li></ol>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Follow Directions</b></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read all directions carefully.</li> <li>2. Do the sample questions even though you think you understand.</li> <li>3. If you don't completely understand what to do, don't hesitate to ask for clarification.</li> <li>4. Sometimes you will need to reread the directions or the questions to be sure you are answering what is being asked.</li> <li>5. Don't assume that all the questions in the same section follow the same pattern. One question may ask for a true statement, the next may ask which statement is <i>not</i> true.</li> <li>6. Don't guess wildly on a question. Try to eliminate one or two choices to a question. If you guess, make an "educated guess."</li> <li>7. Make sure that your answers are on the answer document.</li> </ol>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Test-Taking Strategies</b></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read the questions first. Then read the paragraph.</li> <li>2. Understand that reading to answer specific questions is a different task than reading for content mastery.</li> <li>3. Answer the easiest questions first.</li> <li>4. Skip over the more difficult items and come back to them later. List these numbers on scratch paper and be sure to skip that row on your answer sheet.</li> </ol>

*Source: <http://www.hempstead.isd.esc4.net/hisd-2005/Information-Resources/takstesttips.htm>*