

Reading Strategies

5 steps

How to approach the reading section

- Four passages + one paired passage
- 10/11 questions per passage
- Read passage or questions?
- **Time is of essence**

Step one

- **glance** over the corresponding **questions** before you begin to read the first passage
- circle **the Big Picture / Main Point questions**
- **make a mark on the lines** for evidence based questions
- know what **you're looking for** before you start.

Step two

- read the **information blurb** that comes at the very beginning of the passage
- this should help you situate the passage in **context** and passage **type**

Step 3

- Read the passage by skimming .
- the **last line of the introduction, opening sentences of paragraphs, and the conclusion.**
- look out for **transitional words and phrases**, like *however*, *additionally*, and *despite*, that might mark a shift in or continuation of ideas.
- If you try to approach the passages being **really interested in, even fascinated by, the topic at hand, then you'll be able to speed up your reading and improve your retention.**

Step 4

- **Leave the questions you circled for the end.**
- **Predict** your own answer before actually looking at the answer choices. They are designed and worded so that they all sound plausible, so they could distract you from your original understanding of the question.
- If your passage includes a **chart or graph**, then you'll have one or two data interpretation questions. You may be able to answer these even before skimming the passage
- **Answer the entire set of questions in your test booklet and then transfer all your answers to the bubble sheet in one chunk.**
- The detail questions should go in chronological order with the passages. They're not all mixed up in random order, but rather **coincide with the flow of the passage.**

Step 5

- Once you've answered the other questions, **go back to the general purpose questions you circled.**
- Finally, **carefully transfer your answers to the bubble sheet.**