

Multiple Choice Tips for the NYS Regents exam

There are **twenty-eight (28)** Multiple Choice Questions and they are **54%** of the examination grade. Therefore it is very important that a student scores as many correct as possible.

Answer **ALL** of the questions, there is no penalty for guessing and you are scored for only those that are correct.

Below are some tips as to choosing the correct answer.

There are **three key issues** used by the Board of Regents in creating multiple choice questions. They are:-

Cause and Effect - (What caused an event, what was the effect of this event. It could be either an effect that was short-term or long term).

Chronology – the exam questions are mostly in time order from oldest events to the most current. This is a good point to remember when you are guessing as it may help you remember the events.

Turning Points – how was this event a major change in global history? These type of questions link closely to the cause and effect of an event.

The most important part before answering any question is to **READ THE ENTIRE QUESTION CAREFULLY.**

Read **ALL** the choices before you make your decision

Eliminate those responses that are **NOT** true

Look for **key words** in the question that will help you choose the correct answer.

The Regents use key words such as **claim, evidence, turning point, cause, effect, similar, different, inference (implies), conclusion.**

The Different Types of Questions.

Text-Based Question

This is the type of question that uses a passage. Always ask yourself:

Is this a primary or a secondary source?

Who wrote it and when?

This will help you better understand and answer the question and put it into its correct context.

Graphs and Charts

They could be line graphs, line charts, bar charts, bar graphs, pie or circle charts or graphs.

It is important that you read the titles, labels, and the key. The answer may be right there!

Ask yourself: What does it show? What does the data conclude?

Posters

They are usually either political or social in nature, often propaganda.

Ask yourself: What is the time and place shown in this poster?

Who are these people, places, objects, activities in the poster?

What do the words (if any) say?

Who or why was this created?

Who is the audience?

What is the historical context?

Maps

They will be either **Political, Physical, or Special Purpose.**

Make sure that you **look at the heading and the legend or key**, they will help you better understand the entire question. Remember they are in black and white!

Political maps are designed to show governmental boundaries of countries, states, and counties, the location of major cities, and they usually include significant bodies of water. They use different shading are often used to help the user differentiate between nations.

Physical maps focus on the geography of the area and will often have shaded relief to show the mountains and valleys. Many rivers, mountains and lake features are usually labeled.

Special Purpose maps show items such as differences in climate, population, rainfall, economic activity and each will be labeled accordingly.

Cartoons

They will be either drawn about **social** or **political** issues.

The key questions to ask about any cartoon are:

Who is in the cartoon?

What is the caption or title?

What words, dates or numbers are used in the cartoon?

What are the key words or phrases shown?

What is going on in the cartoon, what are the actions taking place?

Who is the cartoonist and who is his/her audience?

When was the cartoon drawn?

What is the cartoon's point of view?

What is the cartoon's historical context?

If you follow these tips and suggestions then your number of correct answers will improve greatly!