AST Educators Conference
Tempe, AZ

Preparing Your Students to Take the Certification Exam

Presented by:
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Foundation Courses

• Anatomy and Physiology
• Medical Terminology
• Pharmacology
• Microbiology
• Sterilization and Decontamination
• Surgical Technology
• Instrumentation
Test Taking Strategies

**MULTIPLE CHOICE STRATEGIES**

1. Answer the easy questions first, then the harder ones. Don’t get nervous if some questions look unfamiliar. Skip them and return to them later.

2. Pay attention to qualifiers (“usually,” “none,” “always,” “never”) and key words (“except,” “all but the following,” “the best,” “the least,” etc.)

3. Try to anticipate the correct answer before looking at the options.

4. Read all of the options; eliminate the ones you know are incorrect.

5. Look for options that contain other options. These are called "umbrella" options because the other options fall within their scope.

6. Familiarity of a response option does not necessarily make it the correct choice.

7. Sometimes the longer response may be the clue to the correct response.
Test Taking Strategies Continued

**GENERAL RULES FOR ALL TESTS**

- Scan the entire test before you start.
- Read the directions and make sure you understand them.
- Budget your time. Pace yourself. Try for the most points in the time you have.
- Attempt to answer every question. Hard questions can be left until last.
- Take questions at face value. Do not read things into them.
- Answer questions you know first. This relieves tension and gives you confidence, thus allowing you to access your memory as you proceed.
- If a question seems complicated or difficult to understand, put it in your own words or break it down into understandable parts.
- Learn from the test. Often the answer to a question is found in another test question.

**CHECKING OVER THE TEST**

- Go back over and check to be sure you answered all the questions.
- **DO NOT** change an answer unless...
  - There is indisputable evidence that your answer is incorrect.
  - You had misread or misunderstood the question.
  - You recall information or find the correct answer in the test.
Methodology

- Test Taking Strategies
- Prepare Early and Often
- Emphasize Importance of Certification
- Test The Students’ Retention Every Module/Term
- Bootcamp Certification Review Course
Student Engagement

- Reinforce Group Study
- Use CST Outline from NBSTSA.org
- Share Best Practices in Learning
- Outline Study Material
- Make Flash Cards
- Highlight Study Hints in Study Guides
- Define all Answers in Study Guides
Study Materials
Time Management

• Study 1 hour per day (entire length of curriculum)
• Study 2 hours per day w/ 10 min break after first hour (last 2 wks before exam)
• **No more studying** after 6PM the night before exam
• 6-8 hours of sleep
• Eat a healthy meal (brain food) 1 hour before testing
Questions?
Open Forum