

Name: _____ Pd: _____ Date: _____

TIPS FOR TAKING THE SCIENCE PSSA TEST

TIP #1: Read each question carefully

You can't answer a question correctly if you don't know what you're being asked. Be sure you understand the question before you read the answer choices

TIP #2: Take a close look at any visual information

Some questions will ask you about a picture, graph, or table. Don't try to answer the question until you've taken a good look at the visual information.

TIP #3: Read each answer choice carefully

Make sure the choice you select is the BEST answer to the question being asked. To do this, you'll need to look at all the choices. Don't pick the first choice that looks good. There may be a better choice down the line.

TIP #4: Use your understanding of science to get rid of wrong choices

Each multiple-choice question will have only one right answer. By getting rid of wrong answers, you increase your chance of choosing the right one. If you can get rid of two choices that you know are wrong, your chances of guessing the correct answer go from 1 in 4 to 1 in 2!

TIP #5: Answer every question, even if you have to guess.

If you aren't sure of an answer, guess. You've got nothing to lose. If you don't answer a question, you can't get it right.

TIP #6: Don't let difficult questions slow you down

If you come to a difficult question, try to get rid of wrong choices. Then make your best guess and move on. If you want, you can mark an "X" next to questions you find hard and come back to them later. Sometimes the correct answer will come to you after you've looked at other questions.

TIP #7: Check your work

If you finish the test early, don't close your test booklet and stare at the wall or take a nap. Go back and check your work.

TIP #8: Use your best handwriting

You won't get any extra points for nice handwriting, but if the official scorer can't read your answer, you will probably get zero points.

TIP #9: Answer every short open-ended (SOE) question

If a short open-ended (SOE) question seems too difficult for you and you're not sure how to answer it, write something anyway. You may know more about the topic than you think.

TIP #10: Look closely at what you're told or shown on the page

Short open-ended (SOE) questions usually ask you about an experiment or problem or picture of some sort. Often, you will be able to find the answers in the picture, table, graph, or passage that appears with the question. You will likely need to call on your own science knowledge, too. But start with what's right in front of you when you're looking for an answer.