Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

English 8 Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Strategies for Answering Multiple Choice Questions**



* Read the directions. Are you being asked to find the best response or a correct response?
* Answer each question in your head first before you look at the possible answers.
* Read the stem and all of the choices before selecting your answer.
* If you aren't sure of the correct answer:
  + Eliminate alternatives that are absurd, silly, or obviously incorrect.
  + Cross off answers that are clearly not correct.
  + Make sure the stem and the choice you've chosen agree grammatically.
  + Choose the alternative that is most inclusive.
  + The longest choice is usually correct. It contains elaborations necessary to make it correct.
  + The correct choice will usually contain relative qualifiers such as usually, generally, sometimes, often, etc. These words allow for exceptions.
  + The correct choice will usually not include absolute qualifiers such as always, never, at no time, etc. These words do not allow for exceptions.
  + Be alert for choices that are identical (they are usually both incorrect) or opposite (often one of them will be the correct choice).
  + Be careful when asked which is not true or all of the following apply except. These are asking you to pick an incorrect answer.
* If there is no penalty, guess if you don't know the answer! You have a 20-25% chance of choosing the correct response on most multiple choice questions.