

# THE PIRATES TEST-TAKING STRATEGY

**P**  
**I**  
**R**  
**A**  
**T**  
**E**  
**S**

## **PREPARE TO SUCCEED**

- Put your name and “PIRATES” on the test
- Allot time to certain sections
- Start within 2 minutes
- Think positively

## **INSPECT THE INSTRUCTIONS**

- Read the instructions carefully
- Underline what to do and where to respond
- Notice special requirements

## **READ, REMEMBER, REDUCE**

- Read the whole question
- Remember what you studied
- Reduce the choices

## **ANSWER OR ABANDON**

- Answer the question
- Abandon the question for the moment

## **TURN BACK**

## **ESTIMATE**

- Avoid absolutes
- Choose the longest or most detailed choices
- Eliminate similar choices

## **SURVEY**

- Survey to ensure all questions are answered
- Switch an answer only if you're sure

# THE ANSWER STRATEGY FOR ESSAY QUESTIONS

**A**

## **ANALYZE THE SITUATION**

- Notice the amount of time to answer the question(s)
- Read the question carefully
- Underline key words
- Consider how many points this question is worth
- Decide, based on your knowledge, how much time to devote to this question

**N**

## **NOTICE REQUIREMENTS**

- Mark the key parts of the question
- Say the question in your own words
- Ask yourself: “What is the teacher going to want to see when he/she marks this paper?”
- Think positively

**S**

## **SET UP AN OUTLINE**

- List main ideas
- Leave room under the main ideas
- Assess whether those main ideas match up with the answers your teacher expects
- Add or change main ideas

**W**

## **WORK IN DETAILS**

- Remember what you studied
- Add details to the main ideas in the outline
- Check to make sure the details provide the kind of answer your teacher expects

**E**

## **ENGINEER YOUR ANSWER**

- Use your outline as a map for your answer
- Write a short introductory paragraph
- Begin each section with a key word sentence
- Include details and mark them with transition words

**R**

## **REVIEW YOUR ANSWER**

- Check to see if all main ideas and details were included
- Re-write any words that are hard to read
- Check to make sure that you have written a quality paper that meets the requirements you noticed in stage two