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With easy-to-follow instructions, guided sample questions, test-taking tips, and a complete answer check, the Math Test-Taking Strategies Activity Center has everything you need for individual use, for small groups to work independently, or for whole-class instruction.

What's Included
• 16 double-sided reproducible tests
• Recorded audio guide for each test

Before You Begin
Talk with the class about the importance of doing their best on the test. Explain that the test looks for skill areas where they may need some help.

Make copies of the “Practice Filling In Bubbles” sheet located on page 11, and give one to each student. With a small group of students, demonstrate how to fill it in, and have students do each step with you. Tell students to write their first and last names in the boxes and to avoid making any stray marks. Use the side portion of the sheet to have students continue to practice filling in bubbles. Ask students to practice gently erasing as well.
We recommend starting with Test 1, Number Sense. This is the first activity on both TAPE 1 and CD 1.

At the beginning of this practice test, students are provided with some introductory information about test-taking. This information is not included on any of the other practice tests.

**Getting Set Up**

- Decide which skill you want to focus on (a list is included in this guide). Find the cassette tape or CD for that skill and the corresponding reproducible.
- Make one copy of the reproducible for each student in the group. To save time later, you may wish to make a copy for every student in your class now. (You may copy each page on a separate sheet of paper or make double-sided copies.)
- Provide each student in the group with a piece of construction paper or a sentence strip to slide down underneath each question. This will keep students from losing their places and will also allow you to see where each student is on the test.
- Set up the listening center in your classroom. Choose a space that will not disturb other students working nearby. Place the tape recorder or CD at the center and one copy of the reproducible at each space.
- Gather students around the listening center and explain that they will be listening to a recording that will help them practice skills and strategies that are used when taking standardized tests. Emphasize that they will need to listen carefully to the audio instructions. Make sure that each student has a pencil with an eraser.
- At the bottom of each reproducible, you will see either a (stop) or a (go) icon. Explain to your students that the (go) icon means they should continue on to the next page. The (stop) icon means to stop; they have completed that section of the test.
- At the end of each activity on the tape, there will be applause to indicate that it is complete. Shortly after the applause, the second activity will begin. On the CD, each activity is on a separate track.
- Place the tape or CD inside the player and explain how to use it. Explain that the instructions will ask them to stop the player when they are completing their answers, and to start it again to check their answers. If using the tape, children will press the “stop” button to answer the questions, and then press the “play” button to continue. If using the CD, students will press the “pause” button to answer the questions, and then press the “play” button to review their answers. (The CD will automatically skip to the next track.) Decide on a signal for all the children in the group to show that they are done with the questions and ready to check their answers (possibly a “thumbs up” sign or putting all pencils down). Explain to students that the instructions will have them gently erase to correct their answers during the answer-check period. (You may want to ask them to circle the number of each question they answered incorrectly so you can assess areas that need practice.)
- Make a copy of the progress chart included in this guide and keep it at your listening center. Use the chart to keep a running list of each student’s progress in completing the different tests.
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Test 9: Geometry & Measurement
1. D
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. C
6. C
7. D
8. B
9. A
10. B

Test 10: Geometry & Measurement
1. C
2. B
3. C
4. B
5. A
6. D
7. C
8. A
9. B
10. D

Test 11: Data Analysis & Probability
1. C
2. C
3. A
4. A
5. B
6. C
7. C
8. A
9. A
10. A

Test 12: Data Analysis & Probability
1. A
2. C
3. D
4. C
5. B
6. A
7. B
8. D
9. D
10. D

Test 13: Algebra & Functions
1. A
2. B
3. C
4. A
5. A
6. D
7. C
8. D
9. B
10. B

Test 14: Algebra & Functions
1. D
2. C
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5. A
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7. C
8. C
9. A
10. B

Test-Taking Strategies
As students listen to the recording to complete the sample question and check their answers, the teacher voice introduces important test-taking strategies. Many of these strategies are appropriate for any type of test question or skill area. The teacher voice encourages students to:

- Listen carefully to all directions before beginning.
- Look at each answer before marking the one you think is right.
- Cross out answers you know are wrong.
- Check your work and make sure you answered all the questions.

Meeting Individual Needs

ELL
Before students take the test, preview key math vocabulary words and discuss their meanings. Write the words on index cards and prompt students to add illustrations or examples to remind them of the meanings. Place the cards on a ring and leave them out for students to reference.

Reteach/Extra Support
Provide counters, place value blocks, number lines, shape charts, and other appropriate manipulatives and references. Have students take the tests individually to allow more time if needed. Encourage students to repeat activities to reinforce their new knowledge and skills.

Challenge
Invite students to create their own mini tests with several multiple-choice questions for each math skill. Don’t forget an answer key! Then, have students exchange papers and complete each other’s tests.

Test Overviews
The following pages give an overview of each test and show which strategies are paired with which skill.
## NUMBER SENSE

Tests 1 and 2 focus on understanding numbers up to the millions, including decimal numbers. Students are asked questions about place value, rounding, factors and multiples, and working with expanded notation.

- Solve the problem first, then find the answer that exactly matches your solution.
- Look for key words like place value names.
- Round numbers up when they are followed by a 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9; otherwise, round down.
- If necessary, add zeros after decimal points to help you compare numbers.
- Plug in each answer choice until you find the correct one.
- Narrow your choices by eliminating answers you know are wrong.

## ADDITION & SUBTRACTION

Tests 3 and 4 focus on addition and subtraction of numbers including negative integers and decimals. Students are also asked to estimate sums.

- Use your knowledge of regrouping/renaming when needed.
- Solve the problem first, then find the answer that exactly matches your solution.
- Rewrite problems in columnar form, lining up the places and decimal points.
- Add zeros after decimal points if needed.
- Draw number lines to help solve problems with negative numbers.
- Pay attention to operation signs.
- Round numbers up or down and use estimation to eliminate some answer choices.
- Break long problems into smaller steps.

### Answer Guide

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## ADDITION & SUBTRACTION

Tests 5 and 6 focus on addition and subtraction of numbers including negative integers and decimals. Students are also asked to estimate sums.

- Use your knowledge of regrouping/renaming when needed.
- Solve the problem first, then find the answer that exactly matches your solution.
- Rewrite problems in columnar form, lining up the places and decimal points.
- Add zeros after decimal points if needed.
- Draw number lines to help solve problems with negative numbers.
- Pay attention to operation signs.
- Round numbers up or down and use estimation to eliminate some answer choices.
- Break long problems into smaller steps.
Extension Activities

- Talk with students after they have finished listening to the recording. Ask them what strategies they found helpful when completing the test questions.

- Brainstorm a list of all the strategies students remember using for each skill. Keep a list of these strategies in the classroom. Encourage students to refer to the list and use the strategies when completing other class assignments.

- Demonstrate strategies from the recording during other class activities. Perform inverse operations to check answers on operations problems. List information and write number sentences to show details in word problems. Pay attention to key words and point out their meanings. Always talk through the strategy so students can understand the thought process.

MULTIPLICATION & DIVISION

Tests 5 and 6 feature multiplication and division, including money and decimals. Some problems require long division skills.

- Rewrite problems to leave room for long division or regrouping.

- Narrow your choices by eliminating answers you know are wrong.

- Look at the answer choices for clues.

- Be careful to put decimal points in their correct positions.

- When you have time, check your answers by doing the problems twice.

- Align numbers correctly when multiplying or dividing.

- Use mental math shortcuts when you can.

- Use inverse operations to check your work.

FRACTIONS, DECIMALS & PERCENTS

For Tests 7 and 8, students are asked to add, subtract, and multiply fractions, decimals, and percents. They are also required to reduce fractions, calculate lowest common denominators, and find percentages.

- When needed, convert fractions to decimals by dividing. Convert percents to decimals by moving the decimal point.

- Look at the answer choices for clues.

- Narrow your choices by eliminating answers you know are wrong.

- Pay attention to decimal points and zeros.

- Find common denominators when you add or subtract fractions, and change mixed fractions to improper fractions when you multiply.

- Check your work by solving problems in a different way.
GEOMETRY & MEASUREMENT

Tests 9 and 10 cover the properties of two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes, including calculating perimeter, circumference, area, and volume. Questions about properties of angles are included.

- Write important formulas before you begin.
- Draw figures and label their measurements.
- Review the answer choices for clues.
- Cross out answers you know are not correct.

ALGEBRA & FUNCTIONS

Tests 13 and 14 require students to solve for variables in equations. Some questions ask students to express relationships as equations, or solve equations for a given value of a variable.

- Plug in each possible answer until you find the one that makes a true equation.
- Use your knowledge of the commutative and associative properties of addition and multiplication.
- Work problems backward to check your answers.
- Use estimation to eliminate incorrect answer choices.
- Break complicated problems into smaller steps.

DATA ANALYSIS & PROBABILITY

Tests 11 and 12 feature questions about data analysis and probability that involve interpreting line graphs, plot graphs, and circle graphs. Students are asked to calculate values for data sets including mean, median, mode, and range.

- Underline important words in a question.
- Pay attention to titles, labels, and keys to make sure you are reading graphs correctly.
- Cross out answers you know are not correct.
- Reorder data sets from least to greatest to find modes, medians, and ranges.
- Rewrite ratios as fractions when needed. Reduce them to their lowest terms.
- When you have time, check problems by solving them twice.

PROBLEM SOLVING

Tests 15 and 16 ask students to solve word problems involving logic and operations.

- Look for key words to tell you which operation you need to perform.
- Use the key words and numbers to set up a math problem, and then solve it.
- Use variables to stand for missing numbers.
- Draw pictures or diagrams to show the problem and label the parts.
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**CD/Cassette Guide**

CD 1, tracks 1 & 2, or Cassette 1, side 1: Test 1, Number Sense
CD 2, tracks 3 & 4, or Cassette 1, side 2: Test 2, Number Sense
CD 3, tracks 5 & 6, or Cassette 2, side 1: Test 3, Addition & Subtraction
CD 4, tracks 7 & 8, or Cassette 2, side 2: Test 4, Addition & Subtraction
CD 5, tracks 9 & 10, or Cassette 3, side 1: Test 5, Multiplication & Division
CD 6, tracks 11 & 12, or Cassette 3, side 2: Test 6, Multiplication & Division
CD 7, tracks 13 & 14, or Cassette 4, side 1: Test 7, Fractions, Decimals & Percents
CD 8, tracks 15 & 16, or Cassette 4, side 2: Test 8, Fractions, Decimals & Percents
CD 9, tracks 17 & 18, or Cassette 5, side 1: Test 9, Geometry & Measurement
CD 10, tracks 19 & 20, or Cassette 5, side 2: Test 10, Geometry & Measurement
CD 11, tracks 21 & 22, or Cassette 6, side 1: Test 11, Data Analysis & Probability
CD 12, tracks 23 & 24, or Cassette 6, side 2: Test 12, Data Analysis & Probability
CD 13, tracks 25 & 26, or Cassette 7, side 1: Test 13, Algebra & Functions
CD 14, tracks 27 & 28, or Cassette 7, side 2: Test 14, Algebra & Functions
CD 15, tracks 29 & 30, or Cassette 8, side 1: Test 15, Problem Solving
CD 16, tracks 31 & 32, or Cassette 8, side 2: Test 16, Problem Solving

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### Math Test-Taking Strategies Activity Center

**Grade 5**

**Designed to meet these objectives:**

- Students will demonstrate number sense and skill with mathematical operations.
- Students will apply knowledge of measurement and geometry.
- Students will understand data analysis and probability.
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