

TEST TAKING STRATEGIES – Answering MCQs



In the CELBAN, multiple choice questions (MCQs) include a phrase, often referred to as the stem, followed by four options. CELBAN uses MCQs as a question format for Listening (video or audio) and Reading. Listening scenarios are played only once.

General MCQ strategies for Listening and Reading

- Read and follow all instructions carefully.
- Pre-read questions before Listening and Reading.
- Manage your time well. The invigilator will post time throughout the test.

Strategies for the Listening test

- Read the questions and select your answers as you view the video.
- Answer the questions in the test booklet as soon as you hear the information you need.
- Practice viewing/listening, reading, and answering MCQs before your test day to find out what strategies work best for you.
- Review your answers. You will be given a short time in between each section to review your answers.

Strategies for answering MCQs

- **Eliminate options that are clearly wrong.**
- **Guess, if you don't know.** You are not penalized for wrong answers.
- **Cover the options.** Read the question and try to answer the question on your own.
- **Uncover the options.** Which option most closely matches your answer?
- **Read the MCQ stem** with each option.
- **Ask yourself if this is true or false.** Decide which option is most true.
- **Look for options** that grammatically fit with the phrase.
- **Compare two options that seem correct.** Look for differences. Then refer to the stem to find your best answer.
- **Use clues from other questions** to answer questions you find challenging.
- **Change your first answers only if you are sure.**