Workshop #3:

CRUSHING THE MULTIPLE CHOICE
Avoiding Traps & Picking the “Best” Answer

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Myth #1

“I suck at multiple choice.”
Myth #2

“Multiple choice is harder than the essays.”
Myth #3

“I’m better at essays than I am at multiple choice.”
Similar to Essay Questions

In an essay question

- Facts are given
- You spot the issue
- State the applicable rule
- Analyze
- Reach a conclusion

In a MCQ

- Facts are given
- The question (sometimes) states the issue
- You supply the applicable rule
- Options provide the analysis and conclusion
Why Do They Feel Harder?

- You can’t ‘talk’ your way out of it
- Usually the correct option is not obvious
  - All options seem at least plausible
  - Detractors or traps are there to see if you get distracted by an attractive but wrong answer choice
- You often have to look for the **BEST** answer
  - All may be correct statements
  - But you must pick the best response for *the given facts* (pay attention to the facts!)
Top Reasons for Missing Them

- Lack of *mastery of the law*
- Making a technique error/falling for a detractor
STRATEGIES FOR TAKING THE TEST
Strategy #1: Determine Time Per Question

- For example, 25 questions in 1 hour = 2.5 minutes/question
- Don’t assume you’ll have time to come back
- Don’t rush. Take the time to do each carefully
- Finish the test
Strategy #2: Read the Facts Carefully

- Don’t ignore the facts
- Don’t assume facts
- Read through once
- Read the call of the question, then read the facts again
Strategy #3: Select the Best Option

- Avoid looking for what you think is the ‘right’ answer
  - Consider *every* option
  - Be able to give a reason *why* the wrong answer choices are wrong
  - Eliminate at least two wrong choices
  - Pick from remaining two
  - The “best” choice is one that is correct for *the given facts* and answers the call of the question
Strategy #4: Trust Yourself

- Avoid second guessing
  - Don’t change your answer unless you know your choice is wrong
Practice with a Purpose

Purpose #1: To figure out what you still don’t know about the law

- Open outline
- Untimed
- Next to the question, jot down the rule(s) you think the question calls for
- For each answer choice, jot down a reason why you think it’s correct/incorrect

Purpose #2: To test yourself (weeks 14-16)

- Closed outline
- Timed
Eliminate Answers That:

- Applies a rule not at issue
- Misstates a rule
- Misstates or assumes facts
- Considers something irrelevant
- States a rule you’ve never heard of
Workshop Slides & Videos

Go to:

http://law.ggu.edu/student-support/academic-resources/academic-development-program/
Week 12

Answering the Question “Why?”: Legal Analysis on Law School Exams

LS1: Monday, Oct. 31, 12:00-1:00, Room 2202
LS2: Wednesday, Nov. 2, 12:00-1:00, Room 2202
LSN: Wednesday, Nov. 2, 5:15-6:15, Room 2203