

Writing & Language Strategies

- 1. Recognize that questions relate to specific portions of the sentences or paragraphs of the passage.** Each question will correlate to specific portions of the sentences or paragraphs. This will be represented by a shaded box, at the beginning of the sentence or at the end of the paragraph, with the correlating number in it.
- 2. Scan through the questions.** By scanning through the questions before reading the passage, you set the parameters of our interpretation and focus our attention on what you will need to answer and where the question will be presented within the passage.
- 3. Determine whether each question regards *grammar usage* or *rhetorical skills*, if possible.** *Grammar usage* questions, typically, do not pose an actual question. Rather, *grammar usage* questions' first answer, option "A," will be "NO CHANGE." *Rhetorical Skills* questions, typically, pose a question. There are instances, mostly regarding diction, that *rhetorical skills* questions do not pose an actual question. If you are unable to distinguish whether the question regards *grammar usage* or *rhetorical skills*, then wait until you have read through the sentence or paragraph containing the question.
- 4. Dedicate more time to answering *rhetorical skills* questions and less time to answering *grammar usage* questions.** *Rhetorical skills* questions will require more time because you will have to consider larger portions of the passage.
- 5. Read through the entire question if it regards *rhetorical skills*.** Expose yourself to the sentences or paragraph you will have to pay additional attention to, to answer the question. Recall the *Reading Test* and how we analyzed rhetoric and rhetorical strategy.
- 6. Make an annotation of the *rhetorical skills* question, if possible, within the passage.** Annotate similarly to the way you annotated in the *Reading Test*.
- 7. Answer *grammar usage* questions immediately after reading the sentence(s).** This will keep the components of the sentence fresh as you consider the potential mistake. This will also limit the amount of time you dedicate on this question type.
- 8. Answer *rhetorical skills* questions immediately after reading the paragraph or passage.** This will keep the components of the paragraph or the passage fresh as you consider the reorganization or relevancy the question proposes.