

Lesson 4: Tips for Multiple Choice & Newsela

(approximately one hour)

A. Strategies for Multiple-Choice Questions (15 min.)

Multiple-choice questions appear on a lot of different tests and quizzes, including the ELA Regents exam. There are some different strategies that can help you tackle these types of questions wherever you encounter them.

We're going to be looking at a few multiple-choice questions. They refer, obviously, to a passage you haven't read yet. It might seem counter-intuitive, but it can often be a good idea to look at the questions before you read a passage. Why might this be the case?

What similarities do you notice between the following two questions?

(Hint: Pay attention to how the questions begin.)

1. Read the section "No Pooping, Nesting or Stealing Food Allowed." Which selection from the section explains why companies benefit from using the hawk program?
 - a. Falconers in the Los Angeles area say they charge about \$65 an hour. Costs can go up to \$1,000 a day.
 - b. Keeping seagulls and pigeons away saves on the cost of cleaning up bird poop and nests.
 - c. Guests want to be able to eat French fries by the pool. When a seagull takes them, that is a problem, Mohrfeld said.
 - d. He said he has more job offers than he can handle. He has 26 workers and 60 falcons and hawks.
2. Read the paragraph below from the section "Not Everyone Is A Supporter." What conclusion can the reader make based on this paragraph?

"There are a lot of traditional falconers out there who have concerns about it," he said. Falconry is not something you do to make money, he said.

- a. Some groups teach falcons how to hunt for food.
- b. Some people think it is wrong to put falcons to work.
- c. Using predator birds has become a popular option.
- d. Using predator birds can cost companies a lot of money.

Reading comprehension questions will often direct you to the specific part of the text where the answer can be found. Sometimes, as in Question 2, the relevant passage will be reprinted in the question. Many times, however, it is your job to go back to the text and read the section the question refers to.

What are some strategies that can help us when a question refers to a specific part of the text?

Watch the short clip from the game show, *“Who Wants to be a Millionaire?”*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-yh3u5h0syg>

What happens when the contestant (Jack Black) uses his “50-50”? How can we apply this strategy to a multiple-choice question?

So, to review, here are some strategies that can help you with multiple-choice questions, wherever you might encounter them:

1. Read over the questions before you read the passage.
2. If the question refers to a specific section of the text, underline and label that section.
3. Do your best to eliminate at least two wrong answers.

B. Newsela Articles (40 min.)

There are three news stories from the Newsela website for you to practice using the strategies discussed above. Do your best to answer the multiple-choice questions for each article!