



Maine State PIRC
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To do well on a test, you must have good knowledge of the information that is being tested. You must also have a strategy for taking the test that allows you to show what you know. The DETER strategy can help you do your best on any test. Each letter in DETER reminds you what to do.

D = Directions

- ✍ Read the test directions carefully.
- ✍ Ask your teacher to explain anything about the test directions you do not understand.
- ✍ Only by following the directions can you achieve a good score on the test.
- ✍ If you do not follow the directions, you will not be able to demonstrate what you know.

E = Examine

- ✍ Examine the test to determine how much work there is.
- ✍ It is only after reviewing the entire test that you can separate it into smaller, more manageable parts.

T = Time

- ✍ Next, decide how much time you will spend on each item.
- ✍ If the points assigned to each section are different, plan to spend more time on the areas that provide the most points.
- ✍ Planning your time is especially important when there are essay questions. You will need to avoid spending too much time on the essays so that you have enough time left for other test items.

E = Easiest

- ✍ The second E in DETER reminds you to answer the easiest items first.
- ✍ If you get stuck on a difficult question that comes up early in the test, you may not allow yourself the time necessary to finish the test.

R = Review

- ✍ If you have planned your time correctly, you will have time to review your answers and make them as complete and accurate as possible.
- ✍ Also make sure to review the test directions to be certain you have answered all items required.

Using the DETER strategy will help you do better on tests and get better grades.

