

# The 6 Types of Test-Taking Errors:

## Back on Track



- 1) Misread direction errors.** These errors occur when you skip directions or misunderstand directions but answer the question or do the problem anyway. *To avoid this type of error, read all the directions and make sure you fully understand them.*
- 2) Careless errors.** These errors can be caught automatically upon reviewing the test. *To avoid this type of errors, watch for simple mistakes carefully as you review the test.*
- 3) Concept errors.** These errors are made when you do not understand the properties or principles required to work the problem. *To avoid this type of error in the future, you must go back to your textbook or notes and learn why you missed the problems.*
- 4) Application errors.** Errors that you make when you know this concept but cannot apply it to the problem. *To reduce this type of error, you must, learn to predict the type of application problems that will be on the test.*
- 5) Test Procedure errors.** Errors that you make because of the specific way you take tests, such as:
  - A. Missing more questions in the 1st-third, 2nd-third or last third of a test. *If you find that you miss more questions in a certain part of the test consistently, use your remaining test time to review that part of the test first.*
  - B. Not completing a problem to its last step. *To avoid this mistake, review the last step of a test problem first, before doing an in-depth test review.*
  - C. Changing test answers from the correct ones to incorrect ones. *If you are a bad answer changer, then write on your test "Don't change answers." Only change answers if you can prove to yourself or to the instructor that the changed answer is correct.*
  - D. Getting stuck on one problem and spending too much time. *Set a time limit for each problem before moving to the next problem.*
  - E. Rushing through the easiest part of the test and making careless errors. *If you do this often, after finishing the test review the easy problems first, then review the harder problems.*
  - F. Miscopying an answer from your scratch work to the test. *To avoid this, systematically compare your last problem step on scratch paper with the answer on the test.*
  - G. Leaving answers blank. *Write down some information or try at least to do the first step.*
  - H. **Not following the ten steps to better test-taking.** Deviating from these proven then steps will cost you points!
- 6) Study errors.** Errors that occur when you study the wrong type of material or do not spend enough time studying pertinent material. *To avoid these errors in the future, take some time to track down -why the errors occurred so that you can study more effectively the next time.*