

10 Tips for Creating Good Multiple Choice Questions

1. Don't make vocabulary unnecessarily difficult.
2. Make sure the "stem" (question) asks a complete question.
3. Don't ask questions about trivia.
4. Avoid negative items (e.g. which of the above doesn't...., which of the above isn't...., etc.)
5. Avoid grammatical clues to the right answer.
6. Avoid "none of the above" and "all of the above."
7. Make all options roughly the same length.
8. Use common misconceptions or stereotypes as incorrect options.
9. Repeat keywords between the stem and the incorrect options.
10. Use interpretative exercises to get away from rote learning.

More guidance for writing good multiple-choice questions

- Use paragraph long stem – clinical presentation or experimental description
- Lead-in should be a focused, one-sentence question
- Options should not be a sentence and should be homogeneous

- Cover the options and see if the stem and question lead you to a “fill in the blank” answer
- Cover the stem and lead-in and see if the options are homogeneous

- Aim for 50-60 questions per hour (45 if using particularly long stems)