

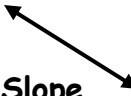





# Algebra 1 EOC Test Strategies and Reminders

## Strategies

- 1) Read the directions and questions carefully.
- 2) Don't spend too much time thinking through one problem because this can cause frustration. Skip the question and come back to it after you have completed the other questions. However, make sure that you mark the question that you left blank. For example, put a question mark by it so that you remember to come back to it and this will reduce time searching for the question. Make sure you place the next answer in the correct spot on the answer sheet. **Frequently check to make sure you are filling in the appropriate bubble.**
- 3) Eliminate answer choices that you know are incorrect. For example, on graphs of lines remember that lines with **positive slopes rise** and lines with **negative slopes fall**. This will help you to cross out answer choices.
- 4) "All of the Above" - If you know two or three of the choices seem correct, then "All of the Above" is a strong possibility.
- 5) If two answer choices are opposite of each other, chances are one of them are correct.
- 6) Highlight or underline key words or vocabulary in the question that may help you answer the problem, for example: sum, mean, product, etc.
- 7) If you have to guess, choose an answer that is in the middle of the range, not the high number or the low number. Choice C is often a popular answer choice on multiple choice test too. Also, choosing the same letter for all the questions that you have to guess on will increase the chances of getting more questions correct.
- 8) If you cannot solve an equation, then **substitute or plug in the answer choices** to see which one is correct. It has to be one of the answer choices you are given.
- 9) Drawing a diagram/picture may help you solve a problem.
- 10) Don't forget about your formula sheet. Determine if you need to use a formula to help you solve the problem.
- 11) **Do not leave any answers blank. Guess if you do not know the answer.**
- 12) Use the Graphing Calculator whenever possible.  
**Graph the equations to see which equation matches the graph.**

## Reminders

- 1) "Window" Don't forget to set your viewing window before starting the test.  
For the TI graphing calculators the following "Window" squares up the viewing screen.  
X min -11.5    Y min -7    X res 1    (It also gives nice X intercepts  
X max 12    Y max 8    that are multiples of 0.25)  
X scl 1    Y scl 1
- 2) Slope = Rise over Run; "You must Rise Up before you Run Across"
- 3) Lines that Rise=Positive Slope,   
Horizontal Lines=Slope is Zero,   
Lines that Fall=Negative Slope,   
Vertical Lines=Slope is Undefined   
There is NO slope
- 4)  $y = \#$ , For example,  $y = 2$  is a horizontal line 
- 5)  $x = \#$ , For example,  $x = 4$  is a vertical line 
- 6) When plotting an ordered pair, start at the origin and you must first go right or left, then up and down
- 7) If you hate fractions, convert them to decimals by dividing the top number (numerator) by the bottom number (denominator).  
Remember to use the **Fraction key in the calculator** whenever necessary.
- 8) When solving equations, combine like terms on the same side by using the signs in front of the coefficients. If they are on opposite sides that is when you add or subtract (Do the opposite) to take a term to the other side of the equation.
- 9) **Use your calculator** even if you think you can do the problem in your head.  
For Order of Operations use the calculator and put the problem in just as you see it in the question. If they ask which step to complete first remember the phrase **Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally**.
- 10) For percentage problems, convert the **percent to a decimal** by moving the decimal point **2 places to the Left**.
- 11) Convert to **Scientific Notation Mode** for any problems dealing with scientific notation.  
Remember to convert back to **Normal Mode** when you are finished with that problem.