

# R.E.A.D.Y. Strategy

The R.E.A.D.Y. strategy can be used to answer tough multiple-choice questions. Use each step to guide your reading and response to these questions in an exam setting. You may not need to use R.E.A.D.Y. for every question, but if you're finding a specific question particularly challenging, then this is a simple and effective technique, no matter the subject!

## Anatomy of a multiple-choice question

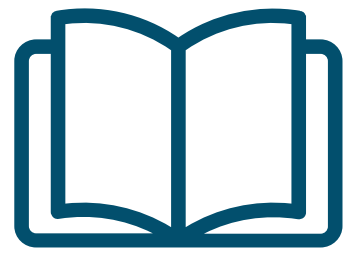
Which one of the following persons is the author of "Das Kapital"?

A. Mannheim      C. Weber  
B. Marx             D. Michels

Question

Stem

Alternatives



## Read

Read the entire question.

Identify key words:

- Negatives: None, not, never, neither
- Superlatives: Every, all, none, always, only
- Qualifiers: Usually, often, generally, may, seldom

Use scratch paper, if you can/want, and write down important parts of the question or key words.

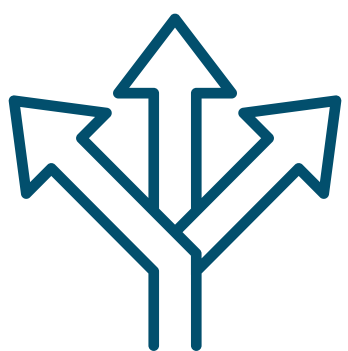
**Ask yourself:** Before analyzing the question further and looking at each alternative, can I guess the answer?



## Examine

Understand what the stem is really asking.

**Ask yourself:** Some answers may be good, but can I find the best answer?



## Alternatives

Alternatives are your options (e.g., A, B, C, D, etc.).

Consider which alternatives best answer the question posed.

**Ask yourself:** How does each individual alternative relate to the stem-question?



## Delete

Eliminate the distractors, such as non-plausible choices or incorrect alternatives.

Use a scrap piece of paper to write A, B, C, D and cross out distractors.

**Ask yourself:** Which alternatives can I confidently eliminate?



## Yield

Re-read the entire question and possible answers.

Review your selection and reflect on how it answers the question being asked.

**Ask yourself:** Did I miss anything? If not, move on to the next question!



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