

## Follow-up Discussion

Professional Development Monthly Advisor and Planner (PDMAP)

# ***Test-Taking Strategies***

March 2013

### Discussion Questions:

1. The Hambleton/Jirka article states that test-taking anxiety and lack of test-taking skills are interrelated. What strategies have you used to help learners overcome test anxiety? How do you typically address test-taking strategies with your adult learners? Which of the six strategies described in the Hambleton/Jirka article do you think would be most effective with your learners?
2. Think about the conditions (space, time, noise, visuals) that are present in a typical test-taking experience for learners at your program. Do these conditions enable learners to “clear the brain for learning and testing”? If yes, in what ways? If no, what changes could be made that would improve the conditions so learners are psychologically ready for testing?
3. In what ways do you familiarize learners – especially immigrant ESL learners - with the formats of standardized tests – question types, writing requirements, bubble answer sheets, time limits, etc.?
4. The new GED 2014 test contains a variety of response types – fill in the blank, matching, short answer, hot spot, Cloze, multiple select and multiple choice. Even without computers, what can you do during instruction to prepare learners for these varied question types?
5. The fourth item in the Hambleton/Jirka article “Become familiar with test-taking techniques” contains seven bulleted techniques. Describe your experience teaching these techniques to adult learners.
6. Which test-taking articles on the How To Study website or the Study Guides website were most helpful to you and your learners?

7. The PD MAP includes both print and video resources for learning test-taking strategies. Which media type would be most suitable for your learners to learn test-taking skills? How could you provide practice of the strategies presented in the twelve videos from the Jonas Salk High-Tech Academy?
  
8. Have your learners used computer-based tests? If so, how did you familiarize them with the skills that were required? How can the *Take the GED Test on Computer* tutorial and the *Wonderful World of Technology* webinar be helpful?
  
9. What did you learn about the format and content of the ACCUPLACER and COMPASS tests? How are these tests similar to and/or different from the GED Tests?