LET'S HIT 'EM OUT OF THE PARK!

Strategies for Taking your EOC Tests

STAAR/EOC BASICS
THE RULEBOOK

How are these tests different from TAKS?

- TAKS was a test tied to the grade you were in.
- The End-of –Course test is a test you take at the end of the class you are taking.
- The Algebra I test will only test you on information you learned this year in Algebra I, not on 8th grade math or anything else.

What is STAAR?

MORE TESTS????

- **State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness or STAAR™.**
- **The high school STAAR is in the form of EOC or End-of –Course Tests**
- **These are basically state-created final exams for your 12 core courses over your high school career. *You must pass all 12 in order to graduate!***

Subjects Tested for EOC

English	Math	Science	Social Studies
English I	**Algebra I**	**Biology**	**World Geography**
English II	**Geometry**	**Chemistry**	**World History**
English III	**Algebra II**	**Physics**	**U.S. History**

TIMED TEST???

- Yes, unlike the TAKS test, the EOC test is timed.
- You will have 4 hours to complete each test.
- This time includes all breaks. (We cannot stop and restart your time when you go to the restroom.)

When do we take these tests?

- English – March 26, 2012 (writing) and March 27, 2012 (reading)

- Weeks of May 7 – 18 – Biology, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, World Geography

Test-taking Strategies

- The morning of the test, start your day as you always do.
- Eat a good breakfast.
- Think of what you will do to relax after you get home from school.
- Think Positively!

Multiple Choice Questions

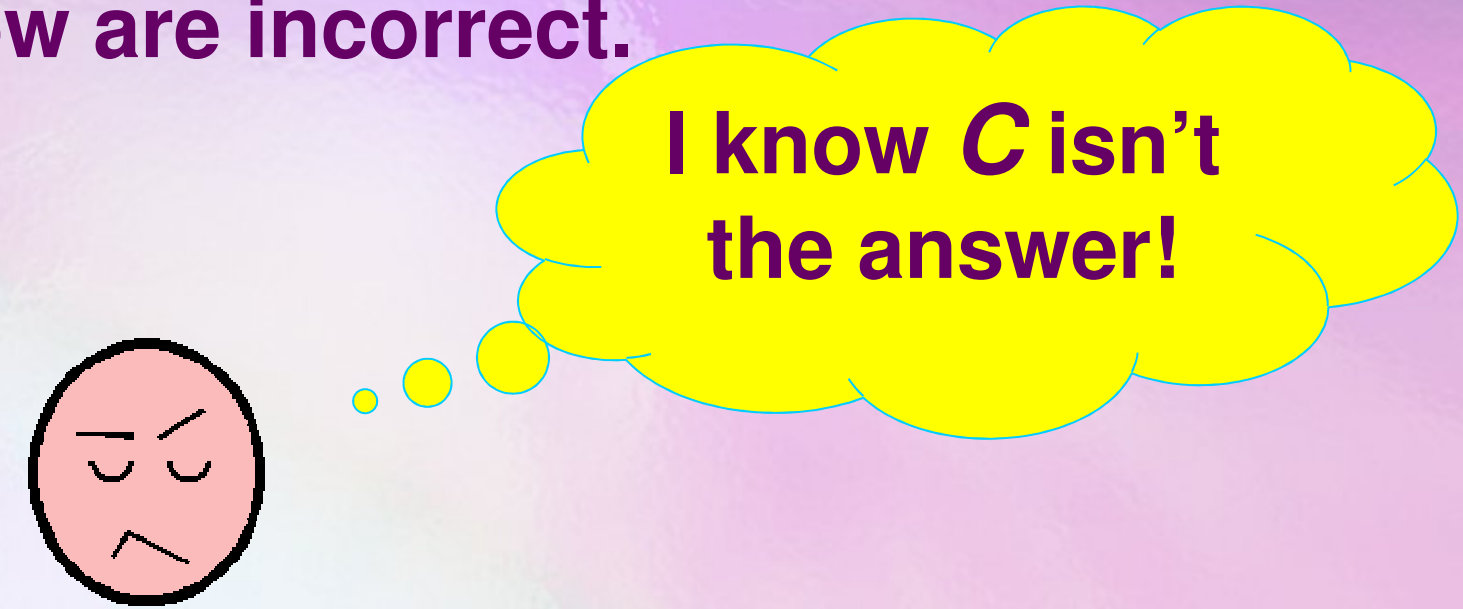
- Read the question and ***all*** answer choices before marking anything.

Multiple Choice Questions

- Do not change your answers unless you are very uncertain about your first answer choice.
- Try to answer every question. Make the most intelligent guess you can.

Use Process of Elimination P.O.E.

- After you have been through all of the questions once, go back and find questions you have some knowledge about and eliminate choices that you know are incorrect.



The Process of Elimination P.O.E.

- If you can eliminate two wrong answers, your chance of choosing the right answer is greater.

Answering Questions

- Don't guess blindly, BUT think about the best answer choice, AND make it!

Skip, Return, Check

- If you finish early, check to make sure you have answered all questions.

Key Words

- Find key words or phrases in the question that will help you choose the correct answer.

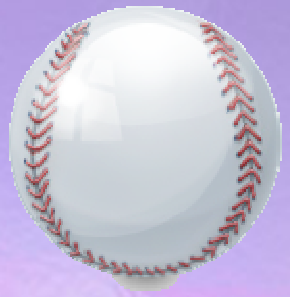
Are we communicating?

- Make sure you understand what the question is asking.
- Break it down!
- Be sure you are responding to the question that is being asked.

Reading Passages

- When there are several questions about a reading passage or chart, look for clues in other questions that will help you with those items about which you are unsure.

You will be taking all tests EXCEPT for Math ONLINE.



- **Let's take a look at what that will look like.**

- https://www.pearsonaccess.com/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=Texas%2FtxPALPPALayout&cid=1175826685632&p=1175826685632&pagename=txPALPWrapper&resourcecategory=Training&testingprogram=STAAR

A Matter of Time – REMEMBER YOU ONLY HAVE 4 HOURS!

- If any time remains, spend it on those questions about which you know nothing or almost nothing.
- As you go back through, do not change all answers.
- ***Remember: Your first guess is usually right.***

MATH

Which of the following is not a correct description of the graph of the function $y = -2x - 7$?

A The graph of the function contains the point $(-2, -3)$, and when the value of x increases by 1 unit, the value of y decreases by 2 units.

B The graph of the function contains the points $(-1, -5)$, $(2, -11)$, and $(4, -15)$.

C The graph of the function is a line that passes through the point $(0, -7)$ with a slope of -2.

D The graph of the function contains the points $(0, -7)$, $(1, -9)$, and $(3, -1)$.

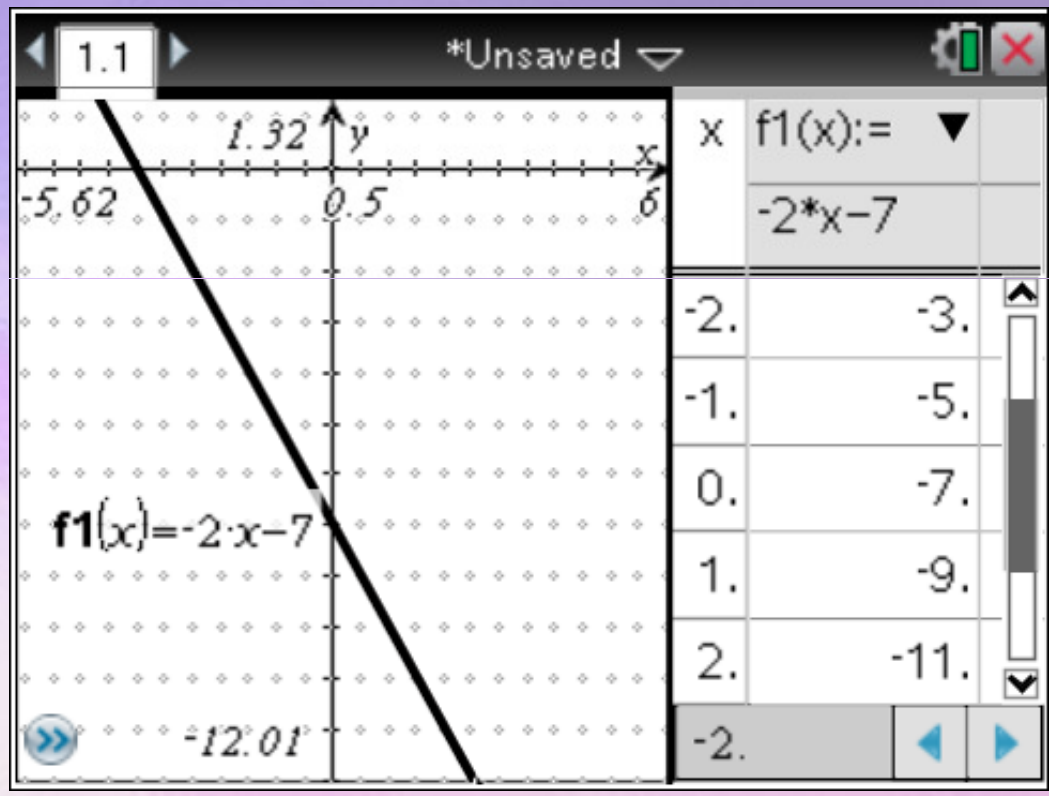
Which of the following is not a correct description of the graph of the function $y = -2x - 7$?

A The graph of the function contains the point (–2, –3), and when the value of *x* increases by 1 unit, the value of *y* decreases by 2 units.

B The graph of the function contains the points (–1, –5), (2, –11), and (4, –15).

C The graph of the function is a line that passes through the point (0, –7) with a slope of –2.

D The graph of the function contains the points (0, –7), (1, –9), and (3, –1).



Math Computation

- When using scratch paper on a math test, double check to make sure that you have copied the problem correctly from the test booklet!

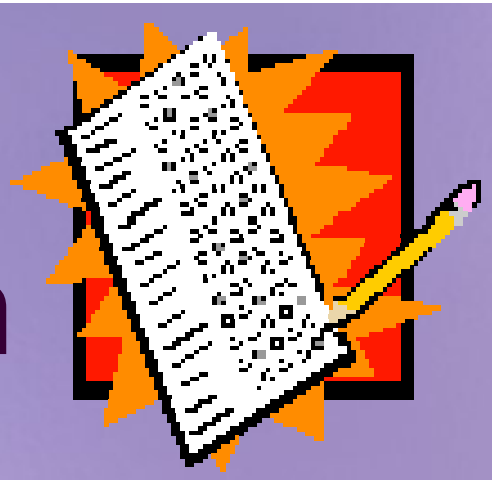
Math Computation

- **Make good use of your calculator!!!!**

Math Computation

- If your answer does not match one of the choices, reread the problem, recopy the numbers, and try solving it again.

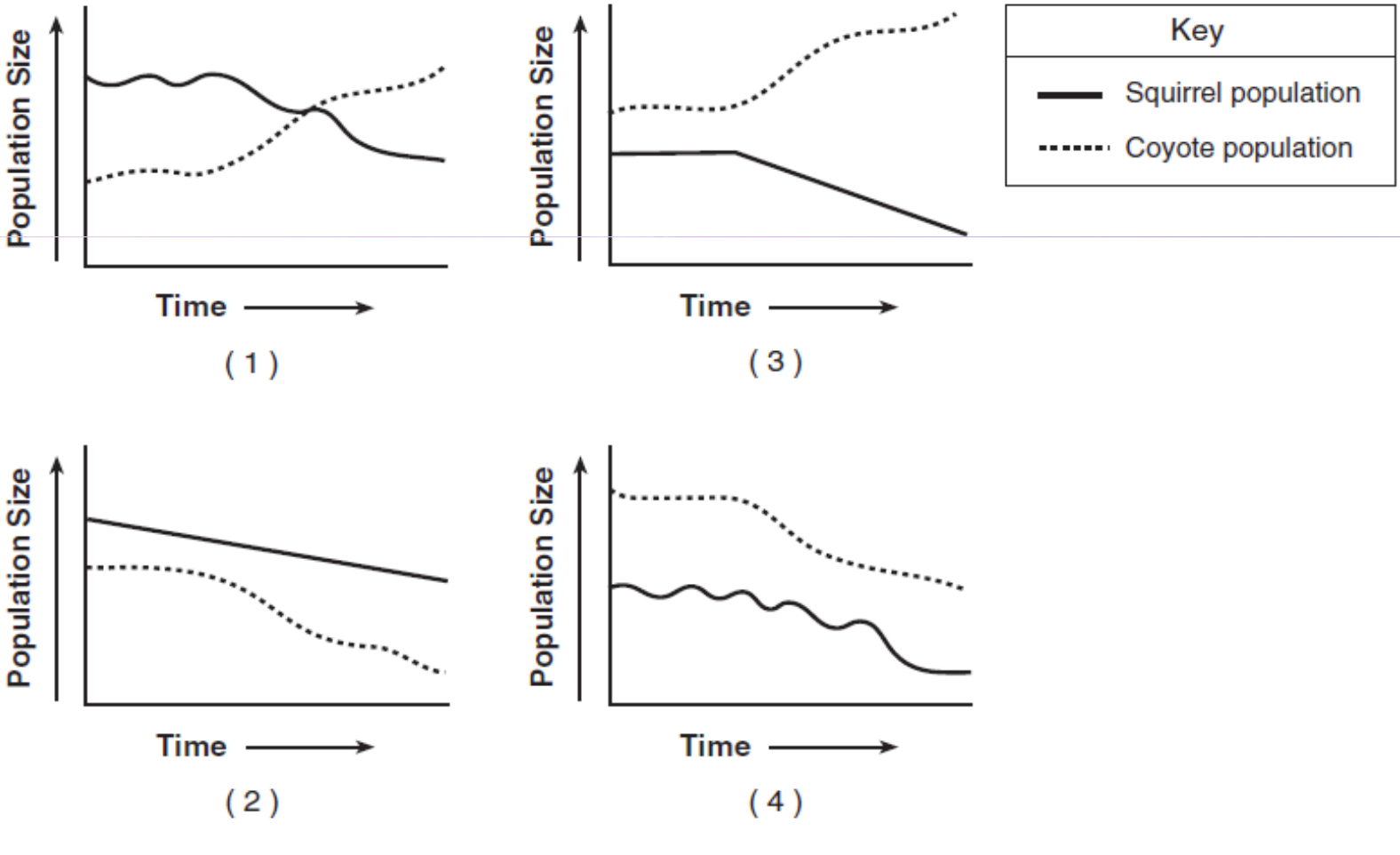
Tips for Math



- Fill in bubbles fully, write neatly, and erase stray marks.
- Double-check the test number in your test booklet against the answer sheet every few questions to be sure you haven't gotten on the wrong number.

SCIENCE

In a particular ecosystem, squirrels make up a large portion of the diet of coyotes. A fatal disease in the squirrel population begins to reduce their population over a period of months. Which graph best represents the expected changes in population size of the coyotes and the squirrels?



WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Selected Characteristics of
Bolivia, Mexico, and Panama

Country	Languages	Primary Religion
Bolivia	• Spanish (official) • Quechua (official) • Aymara (official)	Roman Catholicism
Mexico	• Spanish (official) • Indigenous	Roman Catholicism
Panama	• Spanish (official) • English	Roman Catholicism

Source: *The World Factbook*, CIA

The common characteristics of these countries can be attributed to their —

A economic relationship with industrialized countries to their north

B past military alliances with one another

C preservation of Mayan and Aztec traditions

D history of colonization by a European country

ENGLISH

3 What does the author mean when he writes in paragraph 4 that "vehicles are simply hard shells"?

A Minivan owners should just leave their vehicle doors open if they don't want bears to damage them.

B If bears can break into a minivan, they must be very strong.

C Bears really don't know the difference between a minivan and any other type of box containing food.

D If minivans were built to be more sturdy, it wouldn't be as easy for bears to break into them.

4 In short, to campground bears who've learned bad behavior, vehicles are simply hard shells encasing many types of treats, whether it's raw bacon and Bud Lite or goldfish crackers, dog food, and Juicy Juice. And minivans offer the best promise of treats and the easiest wrapper to open. The researchers noted that they "commonly saw car doors bent open, windows on all sides of the vehicle broken, and seats ripped out, all of which appeared effortless for bears."

3 What does the author mean when he writes in paragraph 4 that "vehicles are simply hard shells"?

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