

## ***Six Types of Test-Taking Errors***

1. **Misread direction errors** – these errors occur when you skip directions or misunderstand directions but answer the question or do the problem anyway.  
*To avoid this type of error, read all the directions.*
2. **Careless errors** – mistakes made which can be caught automatically upon reviewing the test  
*To avoid this type of error, watch for simple mistakes carefully as you review the test.*
3. **Concept errors** – mistakes made when you do not understand the properties or principles required to work the problem.  
*To avoid this type of error in the future, you must go back to your textbook or notes and learn why you missed the problems.*
4. **Application errors** – mistakes that you make when you know the concept but cannot apply it to the problem.  
*To reduce this type of error, you must learn to predict the type of application problems that will be on the test.*
5. **Test-taking errors** – mistakes that you make because of the specific way you take test, such as:
  - a. Missing more questions in the 1<sup>st</sup>-third, 2<sup>nd</sup>-third, or last-third of a test.  
*If you find that you miss more questions in a certain part of the test consistently, sue your remaining test time to review tat part of the rest first.*
  - b. Not completing a problem to its last step.  
*To avoid this mistake review the last step of a test problem first, before doing an in-depth test review.*
  - c. Changing test answers from the correct ones to incorrect ones.  
*If you are a bad answer changer, then write on your test “Don’t change answers.” Only change answers if you can prove to yourself or to the instructor that the changed answer is correct.*
  - d. Getting stuck on one problem and spending too much time.  
*Set a time limit for each problem before moving to the next problem.*
  - e. Rushing through the easiest part of the test and making careless errors.  
*If you do this often, after finishing the test review the easy problems first, then review the harder problems.*
  - f. Miscopying an answer from your scratch work to the test.  
*To avoid this, systematically compare your last problem step on scratch paper with the answer on the test.*
  - g. Leaving answers blank...  
*Write down some information or try at least to do the first step.*
  - h. Not following the ten steps to better test-taking.  
*Deviating from these proven ten steps will cost you points!*
6. **Study errors** – mistakes that occur when you study the wrong type of material or do not spend enough time studying pertinent material.  
*To avoid these errors in the future, take some time to track down why the errors occurred so that you can study more effectively the next time.*