

A multiple-choice question consists of a question and a set of options containing the correct answer along with distractors or wrong answers.

## To Write Effective Multiple-Choice Questions

- ★ Write questions periodically throughout the term, such as after each lecture.
- ★ Instruct students to choose the “best answer” rather than the “correct answer.”
- ★ Avoid negative wording in both question and options. If you opt to use negatives, ensure to highlight key words by capitalizing, bolding, or underlining them.
- ★ Avoid using absolutes wording in both question and options like “never” or “always.”

### □ When writing question stems

- Keep the question stem as concise, clear, and simple.
- Focus each question on one idea, concept, or skill.
- Fully describe the problem in the stem.

### □ When writing options

- Ensure there is only one correct answer that cannot be easily guessed.
- Make the wrong answers (distractors) appealing and plausible.
- Ensure options are clear and consistent.
- Include three to five options and arrange them in a logical sequence.
- Avoid using “All of the above” and “None of the above” as options.

References



<https://crlt.umich.edu/P...>

<https://www.cmu.edu/teaching/assessment/assesslearning/creatingexams.html>

