

Classes of Distractors for Multiple Choice Questions

The distractors to the question should be described in a general manner, similar to the description of the key. In general, distractors indicate that the examinee:

- Does not know something (memory)
- Does not comprehend something (cannot reproduce it)
- Is unable to apply a rule or procedure
- Is unable to analyze something (take it apart)
- Cannot put parts together into a principle of generalization
- Cannot put things in the proper order
- Cannot separate important from unimportant information
- Has misconceptions
- Does not know the vocabulary
- Misses key words or phrases
- Is unable to make analogies
- Cannot identify proper sources
- Cannot read data properly
- Cannot put operations in correct order
- Is unable to make computations
- Does not use provided information properly
- Cannot summarize
- Is unable to demonstrate creativity
- Is unable to demonstrate critical thinking skills
- Cannot evaluate the adequacy of an argument
- Does not make inferences
- Does not draw logical conclusions
- Is unable to identify information as belonging to a particular class
- Does not make adequate comparisons among concepts
- Cannot give explanations about why things happen
- Cannot give examples
- Is unable to evaluate evidence
- Cannot make predictions
- Cannot identify:
 - Accomplishments

- Events
- Definitions
- Titles
- Uses
- Functions
- Names
- Does not identify the best explanation
- Cannot complete a statement
- Cannot identify correct statement out of sequence
- Does not recognize an unnecessary statement
- Is unable to select an improper date statement

Article adapted from information obtained from Dr. Chuck Dzuiban, RITE, UCF, 2011