Objective tests vary in terms of format and question type, but the main point of an objective test is to show our recall of course content. Below are suggestions for how to answer different types of objective test questions.

A. Matching

- Before you begin, read the left column completely. This will give you a sense of alternatives.

- Answer the questions you know first. This reduces your options so that you have fewer from which to guess.

- Cross out as you go along - saves time.

- Good way to study is with flash cards, study sheet, 2-column notes, etc.

B. True-False

- Answer the questions quickly.

- Look for qualifying words.
  1) 100% qualifying words are usually false. There are a few things that are 100% (all, always, never, best, worst)
  2) Qualifying words that fall between extremes are generally true. (seldom, often, usually, few, some, frequently)

- If any part of a statement is false, the answer is false.
  Ex. Thomas Edison invented the ticker tape machine and as a result became famous.
  Edison did invent the ticker tape, however, that is not how he became famous.
  Therefore, the answer is false.

- T/F questions with negative words and prefixes are difficult to sort out and answer.

  Tips: Circle negative words and prefixes to make you aware of them.
  Try to get the meaning of a statement without a negative.
  Change negative words to positive, if answer is true as a positive, it will be trua as a negative.

- Don’t over interpret questions.
  Ex. Psych is the science that studies why human beings behave as they do.
  The answer is true, even though Psych studies the behaviors of animals, the question doesn’t say only humans. Therefore, it is true.
C. Multiple Choice

- Cross out options you can eliminate.
- Watch out for qualifiers and negatives. (Again, be careful of absolute qualifiers)
- If you have to guess, eliminate all options that contain absolutes (never, always, none, or all of the above). Statistically, this is a bad guess. Before you mark it, be absolutely certain that everything is true or everything is false.
  Tips: rarely are two consecutive answers the same.
  A test maker rarely leaves the correct answer expressed as A or E, most common answers are B or C.
  In calculations, if you are at a loss for a reliable technique, make a visual estimate and test it against the answers given.

D. Evaluation of Objective Tests

- Make your old exams learning tools.
  Go back over the problems you missed and determine why you missed them:
  -- Did I miss the question because I did not recognize the information?
    If so, where did the info come from? (lecture, text, handout)
  -- Is there a pattern to my errors? Am I always missing questions on key vocabulary, main ideas, or details?
  -- Am I missing application questions?

- Ask yourself what you should do next time to avoid these errors…devote more time to studying notes? Book? Problem Solving? Memorizing vocabulary? Themes? Etc.