Mathematics: Test-Taking Errors

**Misread-Directions**
Read all directions carefully. If you do not understand, ask instructor for clarification.

EXAMPLE: \( ( )\) 1 1 x x + + Some students may solve for x when the problem calls for multiplication.

**Careless Errors**
Mistakes that can be located upon reviewing the test.

EXAMPLE: Treating ( ) 3 2x− as 6x instead of 6x − , which is the correct answer

**Concept Errors**
Mistakes made when students does not understand principles or properties required to answer problem.

EXAMPLE: ( )( ) x x − − = , not x –

**Application Errors**
When you know the concept, but cannot apply it to the problem.

EXAMPLE: If you must derive the quadratic formula, practice doing that backward and forward until you can describe the concepts used to move from one step to another.

**Test-Taking Errors**
Not completing a problem to its last step; changing correct answers to incorrect ones; spending too much time on one problem; rushing through the exam and making careless errors; miscopying an answer from scratch paper to answer booklet; or leaving answers blank.

**Study Errors**
Studying the wrong material, not preparing in a meaningful way, or not spending enough time preparing.