

Question Writing Steps

- Identify item objective (e.g., to identify the implication of..., to distinguish among...)
- Create item stem (the situation/scenario)
- Write the clearly correct response
- Write three plausible distractors

Question Review Checklist

- Is the content of the question important (versus a trivial fact)?
- Is the question focused on one point? (You should be able to answer the question without viewing the options.) If not, pick a focus and rewrite the question.
- Is the question worded clearly? Make sure there is no way readers can misinterpret the question.
- Is the question succinct? Eliminate any unnecessary wording.
- Is all relevant info included? Make sure the reader doesn't have to make any assumptions.
- Is the answer unequivocally correct and the *only* right answer? Are there any qualifiers necessary? (most important? best? first step?)
- If the question uses a case scenario, is it a usual and realistic case?
- Are the distractors plausible? They should represent answers that an unknowledgeable individual would reasonably select.