

### Answering multiple-choice questions

A multiple-choice question is composed of two parts:

1. The first part is the “stem,” which identifies the question or problem.
2. The second part is a set of possible answers. The answers include one “key,” which is the best answer to the question, and a number of “distractors,” which are plausible but incorrect answers to the question.

On the CGA, each question will include three possible answers. All three answers may be reasonable, but one will be the best possible answer. This is the “key”—the correct answer to the question.

It is important to thoroughly read and understand the question, and carefully consider each answer option before making a choice. Remember that minor differences in wording can change the meaning, and that the incorrect answers aren't there to trick you. Only one answer is truly correct.

#### Example

##### Stem:

A patient has the following Rx:

OD -4.50

OS -4.50 -0.50 × 180

PD 64

He has chosen a frame with the following measurements:

A=50, B=38, DBL=20, ED=53

Where will the thickest part of the lens be?

##### Answers:

- A. Top edge of the lens.
- B. Nasal edge of the lens.
- C. Temporal edge of the lens.

In this example, the correct answer is:

C. Temporal edge of the lens.

The thinnest point of a minus lens is found at the optical centre, directly in front of the patient's pupil, and the lens gets progressively thicker as it travels away from centre. In this example, the width of the lens (A measurement) is greater than the depth of the lens (B measurement), and the pupil will be towards to nasal portion of the lens. Therefore, the greatest lens thickness will be temporal.

With this prescription and PD, the top edge of the lens could only be the thickest portion if the depth of the lens (B measurement) were greater than the width of the lens (A measurement)—which is not the case here. Therefore, A. Top edge of the lens is incorrect.

For the nasal edge to be the thickest portion, the PD would need to be greater than it is in this situation, such that the pupil would be towards the temporal edge of the lens. Alternatively, the prescription would need to be for plus lenses (which are thicker at the optical centre, directly in front of the patient's pupil, and get progressively thinner as they travel away from the centre). This is not the case, so B. Nasal edge of the lens is incorrect.

All of the answer options provided here are “plausible.” However, only one of them is correct. This is why it's important to read carefully, review all of the information provided in the stem, and consider each answer option before making a choice.