



Criteria of well-written A-type MCQ

Whole Item	
1.	The item reflects an important course objective.
2.	The item focuses on a single problem.
3.	The item is totally independent of all other items for its correct answer.
4.	The item should be clear and contain simple language.
5.	Whole item is on same page.
6.	All questions have the same number of alternatives.
Stem	
7.	The stem should be self-contained, The students should be able to answer the question without reference to the alternatives (e.g. follow the rule of "cover the options").
8.	The stem should be clearly worded and free of ambiguity.
9.	The stem should be free of irrelevant or unnecessary detail.
10.	The stem asks a question "lead in question" that has a definite answer
11.	The stem should not provide grammatical clues to any alternative
12.	Negatively worded stems should be avoided if possible (e.g. except and not).
Alternatives	
13.	The alternatives are all appropriate to the question asked or implied by the stem
14.	Alternatives must be grammatically consistent with the stem.
15.	Alternatives should be in one column.
16.	Avoid overlapping distracters (e.g. in range values).
17.	Alternatives are stated as briefly and simply as possible.
18.	Words common to all the alternatives should be placed in the stem.
19.	All distracters (incorrect options) should be plausible, attract the marginal student to choose them.
20.	The use of trickery should be avoided.
21.	DO NOT use "all of the above" or "none of the above".
22.	Key words from the stem are not repeated in the alternatives.
23.	Avoid stating the correct answer in greater length.
24.	Avoid absolute terms like "always" "never".
25.	Avoid stating the correct answer in textbook language.
26.	Do not present false information in alternatives.