

# Standardized Test Math Strategies (SAT, ACT, etc...)

- 1) Use the Test booklet as scratch paper.
- 2) Read over answer choices before attempting long calculations.
- 3) Eliminate absurd answer choices.
- 4) Plug in useable numbers for “ $x$ ” to find the answer choice.
- 5) Use a “convenient starting value”.
- 6) Test numerical values from the answer choices, beginning with “C”. \*\*
- 7) Draw a diagram.
- 8) Try to add a line to a given diagram—make a right angle if possible.
- 9) Trust given diagrams unless stated “not drawn to scale”. In this case, redraw the diagram to more closely match the problem asked.

\*\*\* This is because answer choices are usually listed in ascending or descending order, like (A) 1; (B) 2; (C) 3; (D) 4; (E) 5. By starting with choice “C”, you may get a sense of whether you need to move to a lesser number or a greater number if “C” is not correct.