

## **Data Center University™ Test Taking Tips**

Studying develops specific skills and knowledge, but it is the presentation of your skill and knowledge that satisfies the exam. This difference is vital to successful exam study.

### **Multiple choice: Knowing what's right and what's wrong?**

Knowing what is wrong (and why it is wrong) as well as what is right, demonstrates mastery, and can lead you safely through the minefield of exam distracters (incorrect answer choices). Ineffective study may leave you with a narrow vision of what is right in a particular circumstance.

Memorizing obvious factual knowledge may not deliver enough. Certification exams probe beyond knowledge of a simple fact for mastery-level ability. You must be able to actively apply your knowledge in skills such as power, cooling and management.

### **Follow a balanced study method**

*Look at an exam topic from several perspectives:* In a white paper, from an on-line course, on test preparation products or in the exam objectives. All of these together will reveal contextual knowledge. With sufficient contextual knowledge, spotting the reasons why distracters are wrong becomes a simple process of elimination.

*Understand the actual exam objectives.* Download the DCU Associate exam objectives. Review the objectives and know the emphasis (percentage) for each exam domain.

*Know your learning preferences and select study methods suited to them.* You will likely learn faster if you know you "get it" by seeing, doing or hearing it.

### **Test taking skills**

*Slow down and carefully read the question.* If you don't understand it, reread it. Do you know the material too well to "waste time" reading the question?

*The Data Center University Associate certification exam was written with the assistance of dozens of Subject Matter Experts.* Do not expect to find clues in a consistent writing style for every question.

*The "BEST" choice is always the right choice.* Some distracters will seem technically correct, but if there is a better way to approach the question, go with that choice.

*If you get stuck, you have options before skipping and returning.* Slowly reread the question and all of the distracters individually. Give the question a shot before giving up and moving on. If you're still unsure, return to it with a fresh look later.

*Do not read more into the question than what is stated.* This is most important. Only your knowledge and skills are needed to answer any question. It is not your job to create the circumstances surrounding the question; it is your job to answer it based on the information provided.

Here are other sites with tips on preparing for and taking multiple choice certification exams:

<http://certification.about.com>

<http://www.examcram2.com>