Essay Questions - Strategies

- Plan your time wisely.
- Anticipate possible questions and practice writing essay answers as part of your study sessions.
- Read through the entire question.
- Pay attention to key words: describe, compare, and contrast.
- Develop an outline, so you know what to include in the answer.
- Your opening statement summarizes your essay.
- Make sure you have transition sentences between paragraphs, so that the essay flows.
- Summarize and conclude your thoughts again in your final paragraph.
- Take time at the end to reread your answer.

Words to watch for:
- Analyze
- Define
- Compare
- Criticize
- Describe
- Discuss
- Contrast
- Explain
- Prove
- Relate
- State
- Summarize
- Trace