

# How to Ace High-Stakes Tests

## Multiple Disciplines



**KNOWLEDGE STANDARDS:**

**ARCHITECTS & ARTISANS ACT WITH NATURE TO FORM SPACES AND CIVILIZATIONS**

Earth’s natural materials are used and adapted by human beings in order that they may survive and thrive. Civilizations that thrive tend to have abundant natural resources, and skilled architects and artisans to make use of them.

Humans build spaces to live in and come together in. To do so, they develop skills to act on the natural world. These skills tend to grow in excellence over time, to the point that some people become masters at their crafts. Variables such as level of intensity of endeavor, human curiosity, and human aesthetic influence the nature of human spaces.

SEE ALSO, TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING STANDARDS, EARTH SCIENCES

**STANDARD: PEOPLE ACT WITH NATURE TO FORM SPACES AND CIVILIZATIONS**



**Which is the most visible here?**

- A. water
- B. rock
- C. soil
- D. living things

**Human beings made this staircase. What is the most likely way that they did so?**

- A. It was carved out of solid rock.
- B. Blocks of concrete were made and then arranged and cemented together
- C. Blocks of solid rock were cut from quarries, then arranged and cemented together
- D. People’s feet, climbing over hundreds of years, created smooth surfaces.

**This staircase was designed by an architect and built by artisans.**

**Which of the following statements best characterizes their approach?**

- A. The architect determined that this set of stairs needed to be here, and the artisan built them using stones that fit from the surrounding area.
- B. After the architect decided exactly where they would go, blocks of solid rock were cut from quarries to specification, and stonemasons arranged and cemented together ...

**STANDARD: PEOPLE ACT WITH NATURE TO FORM SPACES AND CIVILIZATIONS**

*Compose a coherent [interesting] essay properly using textual evidence in support.[CC]*  
 Do you think this stairway was built by a thriving civilization? Why or why not? You may use phrases and concepts from question X, above, as long as you paraphrase and quote properly. Of course, your essay may raise questions for further research.