

form. You can either guess wildly or you can make educated guesses. Here is what I mean:

Would you rather have a one-in-two chance of winning, OR a one-in-five chance of winning? The answer is obvious—the fewer the alternatives that you have to choose from, the more likely it is that you will guess the right answer. Hence, if you are not aware of what the correct answer is, spend a moment thinking about which of the given answers cannot be correct. For instance, in Sentence Correction questions, you can very often read the choices and find some obvious errors. Having eliminated a wrong choice or so, you considerably enhance the probability of guessing right.

The Process of elimination

A logical extension of educated guessing is to guess accurately. That sounds like a contradiction in terms. What I am referring to is a situation, wherein you do not necessarily get the correct answer, because you reached it by calculation. Rather, you reached the correct answer by eliminating all the wrong answers. This method is especially useful in the Verbal Section. Unless you are sure about the right answer immediately, you could consider doing the following:

- (A) *The elimination step*: Read all the choices and ignore all that are clearly incorrect.
- (B) *The selection step*: Amongst the remaining choices, try to figure out how one choice differs from the other. This can give you the right answer on many occasions.

Reverse substitution

Some questions, especially those dealing with algebraic formulae and variables, might be solved faster and with greater accuracy by substituting the numeric values given in the multiple-choices back into the question.

Don't ignore the AWA

True, the AWA scores do not affect your GMAT score. However, if you want to get into the best possible b-School, you will definitely need to do well in everything. Hence, do not take your AWA lightly.

Positive thoughts

If the GMAT score means a lot to you, it is natural to start getting a bit unnerved if not downright pessimistic, about the entire process. Such thoughts could have a considerable negative impact on your perfor-