

INTANGIBLES

Big-League Stories and Strategies for Winning the Mental Game - in Baseball and in Life

These Baseball IQ test forms are meant as a supplement to your book purchase. It was important to us to provide you with printable forms that could be used more easily by individuals and teams interested in measuring and developing their Baseball IQs. They are free to use, whether you have purchased the book or not.

For information describing the Baseball IQ process, see the Baseball IQ section (page 139) of your copy of *Intangibles*.

Answers to the multiple choice tests can be found in the book's Appendix.

For more information on *Intangibles* or to purchase the book, please visit www.bytelevelbooks.com.

Thank you for your interest in the Baseball IQ program and *Intangibles*! Wishing you much success on and off the field...

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Miller', with a stylized, cursive script.

Geoff Miller

Baseball IQ™

Essay Test for Pitchers

The Baseball IQ program is intended for baseball players who are interested in increasing their knowledge of the game. You are about to complete an inventory that will test your current knowledge of game situations and strategy that professional coaches and staff believe every player should know by the time he reaches the major leagues. Please read each question carefully and answer as thoroughly as possible. Your answers will help us develop on-field and off-field activities that will help you learn the game faster than you would by experience alone.

Name:

Age:

Position:

Last Year's Team:

Last School Attended:

Degree Completed (circle one)?

YES

NO

1. If you are a RHP, imagine you are pitching to a right-handed hitter. If you are an LHP, imagine you are pitching to a left-handed hitter. There is one out, a runner on 3B, and the infield is in. Explain your pitch selection and location.

2. In an obvious bunt situation, explain your pitch selection and location (include why you choose this).

3. List three examples of balks.

4. Explain three main reasons it is important to hold runners?

5. Your team is up by three runs and you are pitching with runners on first and second base when a double, possible triple, is hit into the RCF gap. Which base do you back up? Why?

6. How do you define “pitching inside?”

7. If you are a RHP, imagine you are pitching to a right-handed hitter. If you are an LHP, imagine you are pitching to a left-handed hitter. How would you attack this hitter (pitch and location) with the tying run on third base and the infield in?

8. With runners on 1st and 3rd, if you pick the runner off of first base, should you follow your throw to back up 1st base or back up home plate?

9. How do you know what pitch to throw with an 0-2 count?

10. Explain how you set up and finish off a right-handed hitter?

11. Explain how you set up and finish off a left-handed hitter?

12. It's the 9th inning, 2 outs, and there are runners on 2B and 3B in a tie game. Two similar hitters are scheduled to hit. How do you proceed?

13. In a 1st and 3rd situation with one out and the winning run on third base, a comebacker is hit to you. You field it cleanly. What should you do with the ball?

14. What is a purpose pitch? Why do you throw it? What should your next pitch be?

15. It's early in the game and there is a runner on first base and a left-handed hitter at the plate. You are a RHP (lefties, just pretend you are righties for this question). Do you throw off-speed pitches to this hitter? If so, when and why?

16. Define "pitching to contact."

17. Explain the infield fly rule.

18. What is your responsibility if you pick a runner off of first base? What is the catcher's responsibility?

19. A hitter hits a double but misses first base. You are on defense. List two ways to handle this situation.

20. Your team is winning by one run. It's late in the game and there are runners on 1B and 2B and no outs. A regular bunt defense is on and the hitter bunts the ball hard and directly back to you. Which base do you throw to?

21. If you've identified a hitter's weakness, when should you attack it?

22. Define “pitch efficiency.”

23. The bases are loaded, there are two outs, and you have a full count on the hitter. Define your “challenge pitch” in this situation.

24. You’re up by two runs and have runners on first and third. A ball is hit for extra bases down the *right field line*. Where do you back up?

25. What are the most important factors that determine your pitch selection?

26. What is the difference between “pitching to win” and “pitching not to lose?”

Baseball IQ™

Essay Test for Position Players

The Baseball IQ program is intended for baseball players who are interested in increasing their knowledge of the game. You are about to complete an inventory that will test your current knowledge of game situations and strategy that professional coaches and staff believe every player should know by the time he reaches the major leagues. Please read each question carefully and answer as thoroughly as possible. Your answers will help us develop on-field and off-field activities that will help you learn the game faster than you would by experience alone.

Name:

Age:

Position:

Last Year's Team:

Last School Attended:

Degree Completed (circle one)? YES NO

1. What is your approach to hitting with a man on second base and no outs? What is the pitcher trying to do? Pitch? Location?
Circle which one you are and then answer the question:
right-handed hitter (RHH)/ left-handed hitter (LHH)

2. List three examples of a balk.

3. What are three main reasons it is important to hold runners?

4. Your team is up by three runs and there are runners on first and second base when a double, possible triple, is hit into the RCF gap. Where does the throw go and what are the responsibilities of your position on this play (make sure to write what position you play in your answer)?

5. You are a line drive hitter or a power hitter (choose one and circle it).
What is your approach if you are leading off an inning? Hitting with two outs and nobody on base?

6. When should corner infielders check with their manager to see if they should guard the lines?

7. Where should you bunt the ball (and why) when there are men on first and second base and no outs?

RHH vs. RHP?

RHH vs. LHP?

LHH vs. RHP?

LHH vs. LHP?

8. After reaching first base, what are the most important factors a base runner needs to be aware of?
9. Where should the first base coach position himself when coaching first base without a runner on first? Why?
10. What is the “wheel play” and why is it used? How do you know if the wheel play is on?
11. What is your hitting approach with a man on third, infield *in*, and one out? What pitch are you looking for? Location?
12. What is your hitting approach with a man on third, infield *back*, and one out? What pitch are you looking for? Location?

13. With a runner on second base, a balk is called but the pitcher still throws the pitch. What should the hitter do in this situation? What should the runner do?
14. A. In a 1st and 3rd situation, 2nd inning, and less than two outs, the runner on first is caught in a rundown and is close enough for the infielder to tag, but the runner on third breaks for home. What do you do?
- B. In a 1st & 3rd situation, 8th inning, and less than two outs, the runner on first is caught in a rundown and is close enough for the infielder to tag, but the runner on third breaks for home. What do you do?
- C. Would your answer change if there were two outs?
15. You get a base hit up the middle with a runner on second base. The first baseman lines himself up for the relay throw from center field. What determines how far you should round first base?
16. Where should outfielders position themselves when playing “no doubles?”
17. Why do you take a different lead off of second base with two outs?

18. Explain the infield fly rule.

19. What prompts a manager to put on a delayed steal?

20. Define your two-strike approach.

21. A hitter hits a double but misses first base. You are on defense. List two ways to handle this situation.

22. It's late in the game, your team is ahead by one run, and there are runners on first and second with nobody out. A regular bunt defense is on and the hitter bunts the ball hard directly back to the pitcher. Which base should he throw to?

23. A fly ball is hit in foul territory with the winning run on third and less than two outs. The outfielder gets to the ball in time to catch it. How does he know whether to catch it or let it drop?

24. List reasons why the hit-and-run play is used.

25. You are on first base in a 1st and 3rd situation and there are less than two outs. A routine fly ball is hit. Should you tag up or go halfway? Explain your answer.

26. 0-0, 1-0, 2-0, 2-1, and 3-1 are the five best hitting counts. *Why* are they the five best hitting counts?

27. It's the top of the 9th inning and you are the home team. The game is tied and there is a runner on second base with two outs. A lead-off prototype hitter is at the plate. How should your outfield be playing this hitter?

28. You have a full count, bases loaded, two outs. What is your thought process and approach to hitting?

Baseball IQ™

Multiple Choice Test for Pitchers

The Baseball IQ program is intended for baseball players who are interested in increasing their knowledge of the game. You are about to complete an inventory that will test your current knowledge of game situations and strategy that professional coaches and staff believe every player should know by the time he reaches the major leagues. Your answers will help us develop on-field and off-field activities that will help you learn the game faster than you would by experience alone.

Name:

Age:

Position:

Last Year's Team:

Years in Professional Baseball:

Years in Organization:

Last School Attended:

Degree Completed (circle one)? YES NO

Please read each question carefully and answer by circling the *letter* of the answer you believe to be correct.

1. Whenever a ground ball is hit to the right side of the infield, you should:
 - a. Watch the play develop and cover first if the first baseman can't get there.
 - b. Start moving toward first base as soon as the ball is hit.
 - c. Stay on the mound and stay out of the play.
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.

2. In an obvious bunt situation, choose the correct pitch selection and location from the list below:
 - a. Fastball in, try to jam him.
 - b. Curveball down, try to get him to bunt and miss.
 - c. Fastball for a strike, just let him bunt it.
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.

3. Which of these are examples of balks?
 - a. Pitcher doesn't come to a complete stop before starting his delivery to home plate
 - b. Left-handed pitcher steps home and throws to first.
 - c. Pitcher comes set, breaks his hands, and comes set again.
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.

4. Controlling the running game at first base can be done by:
 - a. A well-timed pitch out.
 - b. Holding the ball and then picking to first.
 - c. Holding the ball and then pitching.
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.

5. Pitching inside for a strike with a fastball will:
 - a. Make it difficult for a hitter to cover the entire plate.
 - b. Set up the front-door breaking ball.
 - c. Allow the pitcher to avoid contact.
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.

6. The only base that you don't follow your throw on a pick off or comebacker is:
 - a. First.
 - b. Second.
 - c. Third.
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.

7. It's the 9th inning, 2 outs, and there are runners on 2B and 3B in a tie game. Two similar hitters are scheduled to hit. How do you proceed?
 - a. Go right after the first hitter.
 - b. Pitch around the first hitter and see if he'll chase.
 - c. Be smart with pitch and location to the first hitter and walk him if you fall behind.
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.

8. In a 1st & 3rd situation with one out, 9th inning, and the winning run on third base, a comebacker is hit to you. You field it cleanly. The runners and the hitter all have average speed. What should you do with the ball?
 - a. Throw to second to start the double play.
 - b. Check the runner on third then throw to first.
 - c. Check the runner on third then throw to second.
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.

9. What should the pitcher's top priority be with a runner on 2nd base and two outs?
 - a. Make sure to control the runner's lead by varying looks.
 - b. Know how close the middle infielders are holding the runner.
 - c. Throw a quality strike to the hitter.
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.

10. It's early in the game and there is a runner on first base and a left-handed hitter at the plate. You are a RHP. Do you throw off-speed pitches to this hitter? If so, when and why? Choose the answer below that is *false*:
- Yes, so I can get him to ground into a double play.
 - No, I don't want to speed up his bat and let him hit to the hole on the right side.
 - Yes, if I get to two strikes and it makes sense in the pitch sequence.
 - None of the above.
 - All of the above.
11. Define "pitching to contact."
- Locating down the middle of the plate so hitters can make contact.
 - Throwing strikes with good location so hitters will swing early in counts.
 - Getting ground ball outs.
 - None of the above.
 - All of the above.
12. Which of these statements is *not* a component of the infield fly rule.
- It is only called with runners on first and second and nobody out.
 - The hitter is automatically out.
 - The runners can advance at their own risk.
 - None of the above.
 - All of the above.
13. What is your responsibility if you pick a runner off of first base? What is the catcher's responsibility?
- I stay out of the play. The catcher backs up first.
 - I back up first. The catcher backs me up when he gets there.
 - I back up first until the catcher gets there. The catcher gets in front of me when he gets there.
 - None of the above.
 - All of the above.
14. A hitter hits a double but misses first base. You are on the mound. Which is *not* an acceptable way to handle this situation?
- With the ball still in play, step on first base.
 - If the ball is dead, step off, appeal, then throw to first.
 - With the ball still in play, tag the runner standing on second.
 - None of the above.
 - All of the above

15. Yours is the visiting team and winning by one run. It's late in the game and there are runners on 1B and 2B and no outs. A regular bunt defense is on and the hitter bunts the ball hard and directly back to you. Which base do you throw to?
- Second base. You want to get two outs on this play.
 - Third base. Keeping the tying run off of third is more important than a possible double play.
 - First base. You must get a sure out in this situation.
 - None of the above.
 - All of the above.
16. If you've identified a hitter's weakness, when should you attack it?
- Every time you face him.
 - At a critical time in the game.
 - Only if you can't get him out with your strength.
 - None of the above.
 - All of the above.
17. Define "pitch efficiency."
- Getting action from a hitter in five pitches or less.
 - Keeping your pitch count down so you can pitch into later innings.
 - Getting good leverage and line on every pitch.
 - None of the above.
 - All of the above.
18. You're up by two runs and have runners on first and third. A ball is hit for extra bases down the *right field line*. Where do you back up?
- Third base. You want to keep the hitter off of third.
 - Home plate. The left fielder should back up third on this play.
 - Deep between home and third and then see where the throw goes and back it up.
 - None of the above.
 - All of the above.
19. Which pitch is *most* effective?
- A pitch that you believe is the right pitch in that situation.
 - A pitch that attacks a hitter's weakness.
 - Whatever pitch you can command the best.
 - None of the above.
 - All of the above.

20. To be a successful major league pitcher, which of these do you need most?

- a. The ability to throw any pitch for a strike in any count.
- b. Fastball command and the ability to control the running game.
- c. An out-pitch that you can throw for a strike or off the plate for a swing and miss.
- d. None of the above.
- e. All of the above.

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Name:

Age:

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Last School Attended:

Degree Completed (circle one)? YES NO

Please read each question carefully and answer by circling the *letter* of the answer you believe to be correct.

1. Which of these statements regarding your approach to hitting with a man on second base and no outs is *false*?
 - a. You should be looking for something to drive to the right side of the field.
 - b. The pitcher is trying to jam a right-handed hitter or make him pull with pitches hard, down, and/or in.
 - c. You should take what the pitcher gives you and hit the ball where it is pitched.
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.

2. Which of these are examples of balks?
 - a. Pitcher doesn't come to a complete stop before starting his delivery to home plate.
 - b. Left-handed pitcher steps home and throws to first.
 - c. Pitcher comes set, breaks his hands, and comes set again.
 - d. None of the above
 - e. All of the above

3. When should corner infielders check with their manager to see if they should guard the lines?
 - a. At the beginning of every inning.
 - b. In the seventh inning or later, when playing no doubles.
 - c. In an obvious bunt situation.
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.

4. Where should you bunt the ball when there are men on first and second base and no outs?
 - a. It depends on whether the pitcher is right-handed or left-handed.
 - b. First Base
 - c. Third Base
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.

5. After reaching first base, what are the most important factors a base runner needs to be aware of?
 - a. What is the score and how many outs are there?
 - b. Where are the outfielders playing and what kind of arms do they have?
 - c. Is this a good time for a bunt, steal, or hit-and-run situation?
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.

6. What is the “wheel play” and why is it used? How do you know if the wheel play is on?
 - a. Bunt play used to get the out at third. You know it’s on when the SS breaks to third.
 - b. Pick off play used at second base. You know it’s on when the pitcher looks home, then “wheels” and throws to second.
 - c. Pick off play used to prevent a double steal. You know it’s on when the pitcher picks to third then “wheels” and throws to first.
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.

7. What is your hitting approach with a man on third, infield *in*, and one out?
 - a. Looking for any pitch you can elevate for a fly ball.
 - b. Looking for any pitch down in the zone that you can put on the ground.
 - c. Looking for any pitch that you can handle to make sure you drive in the run.
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.

8. What is your hitting approach with a man on third, infield *back*, and one out?
 - a. Just don’t strike out.
 - b. Make solid contact up the middle in the air or on the ground.
 - c. Drive the ball to the right side of the field.
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.

9. With a runner on second base, a balk is called but the pitcher still throws the pitch. What should the hitter do in this situation? What should the runner do?
- a. The hitter should swing and the runner should run.
 - b. The ball is dead and the runner moves up to third.
 - c. The hitter should swing, but the runner needs to play the ball live.
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.
10. You get a base hit up the middle with a runner on second base. The first baseman lines himself up for the relay throw from center field. What is the most important factor that determines how far you should round first base?
- a. What is the height of the throw home?
 - b. How far away is the first baseman taking the relay?
 - c. Is anyone covering first base?
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.
11. Where should outfielders position themselves when playing “no doubles?”
- a. Back far enough so that any ball over their heads is a home run.
 - b. A few steps deeper than normal depth.
 - c. Shade toward the foul lines.
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.
12. Why do you take a different lead off of second base with two outs?
- a. It makes it easier to steal third base.
 - b. It makes a better angle on your turn home.
 - c. It makes it easier to take a walking lead so you can run on contact.
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.

13. Which of these statements is not a component of the infield fly rule?
- a. It is only called with runners on first and second and nobody out.
 - b. The hitter is automatically out.
 - c. The runners can advance at their own risk.
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.
14. Which of these are parts of a good two-strike approach?
- a. Make a physical adjustment, like widening your stance.
 - b. Make a mental adjustment, like covering the entire plate.
 - c. Shorten your swing and put the ball in play.
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.
15. A hitter hits a double but misses first base. You are on defense. Which is *not* an acceptable way to handle this situation?
- a. With the ball still in play, step on first base.
 - b. If the ball is dead, pitcher steps off, appeals, and throws to first.
 - c. With the ball still in play, tag the runner standing on second.
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.
16. Yours is the visiting team and winning by one run. It's late in the game and there are runners on 1B and 2B and no outs. A regular bunt defense is on and the hitter bunts the ball hard directly back to the pitcher. Which base should he throw to?
- a. Second base. You want to get two outs on this play
 - b. Third base. Keeping the tying run off of third is more important than a possible double play.
 - c. First base. You must get a sure out in this situation.
 - d. None of the above.
 - e. All of the above.

17. A fly ball is hit in foul territory with the winning run on third and less than two outs. The outfielder gets to the ball in time to catch it. How does he know whether to catch it or let it drop?
- If he is sure he can throw the runner out from where he catches it, then he should catch it.
 - If he is able to set his feet before he catches it, then he should catch it.
 - If he throws left and plays left field or throws right and plays right field, he should let it drop.
 - None of the above.
 - All of the above.
18. A runner is on first base in a 1st & 3rd situation and there are less than two outs. A *routine* fly ball is hit. The runner on first should:
- Go halfway in case the outfielder doesn't catch the ball.
 - Tag up to either advance a base or draw a cut-off.
 - Watch the third base coach and follow his direction.
 - None of the above.
 - All of the above.
19. 0-0, 1-0, 2-0, 2-1, and 3-1 are the five best hitting counts. *Why* are they the five best hitting counts?
- You are likely to see a fastball.
 - You are even or ahead in the count.
 - You can be more selective and look for pitches that you can drive.
 - None of the above.
 - All of the above.
20. It's the top of the 9th inning and you are the home team. The game is tied and there is a runner on second base with two outs. A lead-off prototype hitter is at the plate. How should your outfield be playing this hitter?
- Straight up, there are two outs.
 - Nothing over their heads and closing the gaps.
 - Shallow and shaded to the opposite field.
 - None of the above.
 - All of the above.