

ABSTRACT

Hidayah, Himafatul. 2013. *English Test Taking Strategy of National Exam at SMA Negeri 1 Sidayu Students*. The Sarjana's Thesis, English Education Department, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Muhammadiyah Gresik.

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National Exam is a measurement and competence assessment activity of learners nationally in elementary until senior high school. National Exam in Senior High School is a determining factor of students to continue in college. Some of students assumed that National exam is something to be frightened. There are many student find difficulty to do English test. So that, it was needed exceptional strategy to be successful to do English test in National Exam.

The design of this study is survey study which belongs to descriptive qualitative research. The goal of this study was to investigate what and how are the English test taking strategies used by SMA N 1 Sidayu students in National Exam. The subjects of this study are graduate students from SMA Negeri 1 Sidayu, 2012 period for Language program.

The result of this study showed that there were three dominant strategies (memory strategy, affective strategy and social strategy) used by language program students in National Exam and language program students used memory strategies by write the main idea of the text, then read repeatedly and do exercise about material. They were used affective strategies by sleep early started at 9pm, breathe deeply for about one minute and blow slowly, they believe with their answer and ability. They were social strategies by selecting their friend then make a study group and schedule to done it, in other hand they join in learning course too.

English material in National Exam consists of three competent: listening, reading and writing skill. Memory, affective and social strategies were not appropriate with three competent of English material in National Exam. Strategy which are appropriate with three competent of English material in National Exam were metacognitive, cognitive and compensation strategy. However, the result of this study can be used as underlying inspiration for English teachers and language program students to get success in National Exam.

