

**SAMPLE QUESTIONS**  
for  
**EXCELLENCE WITHOUT EXCUSE (CLASSIC EDITION)**  
**THE BLACK STUDENT'S GUIDE TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**  
By Charles W. Cherry II

1. Why is the performance of Black students important to anybody other than the students themselves, or their parents?
2. Is racism really a factor in American education? If so, how and why?
3. How can the educational performance of Black students be improved?
4. What is the responsibility of the student him/herself? The teacher? The school administration/board? The parents?
5. Can you tell us about certain types of instructors Black students make contact with, particularly in college?
6. What assumptions do whites and blacks make about each other, and how are both groups affected by these assumptions? Why is knowing these assumptions important?
7. What can the Black community do to improve the performance of Black students?
8. You say that 'misdirection' is a strategy for combating racism in education. Describe 'misdirection'.
9. How can a student put himself on academic cruise control?
10. Why do you recommend that most students trash their current note-taking system?
11. Why should students set goals? What is the best method of doing so?
12. You recommend that Black students should become 'bilingual'. Why, and what does that mean?
13. What is the most important advice you can give in dealing with the administration and the educational bureaucracy?
14. What preparation should Black students make before they even set foot in the classroom?
15. Describe 'sociological' and 'personal' points of reference, and why they are important.
16. What is involved in making an academic self-assessment?
17. Once a course starts, what should students do to improve performance?

**Excellence Without Excuse**

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18. Speed reading saves time. What other skills do students need to make themselves more efficient?
19. You suggest taking notes in a book. Why and how is it done?
20. Why is an outline of a course the real secret of success? How do you make an outline?
21. Should Black students use study groups? If so, how should study partners be chosen?
22. What criteria should college students use to choose instructors?
23. What is image management, and why is it important?
24. Why should students prepare to cheat on exams?
25. Can you give us hints on preparing for True-False tests? Multiple Choice tests? Essay tests? Short answer tests?
26. What impact has integration had on the educational performance of Black students?

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