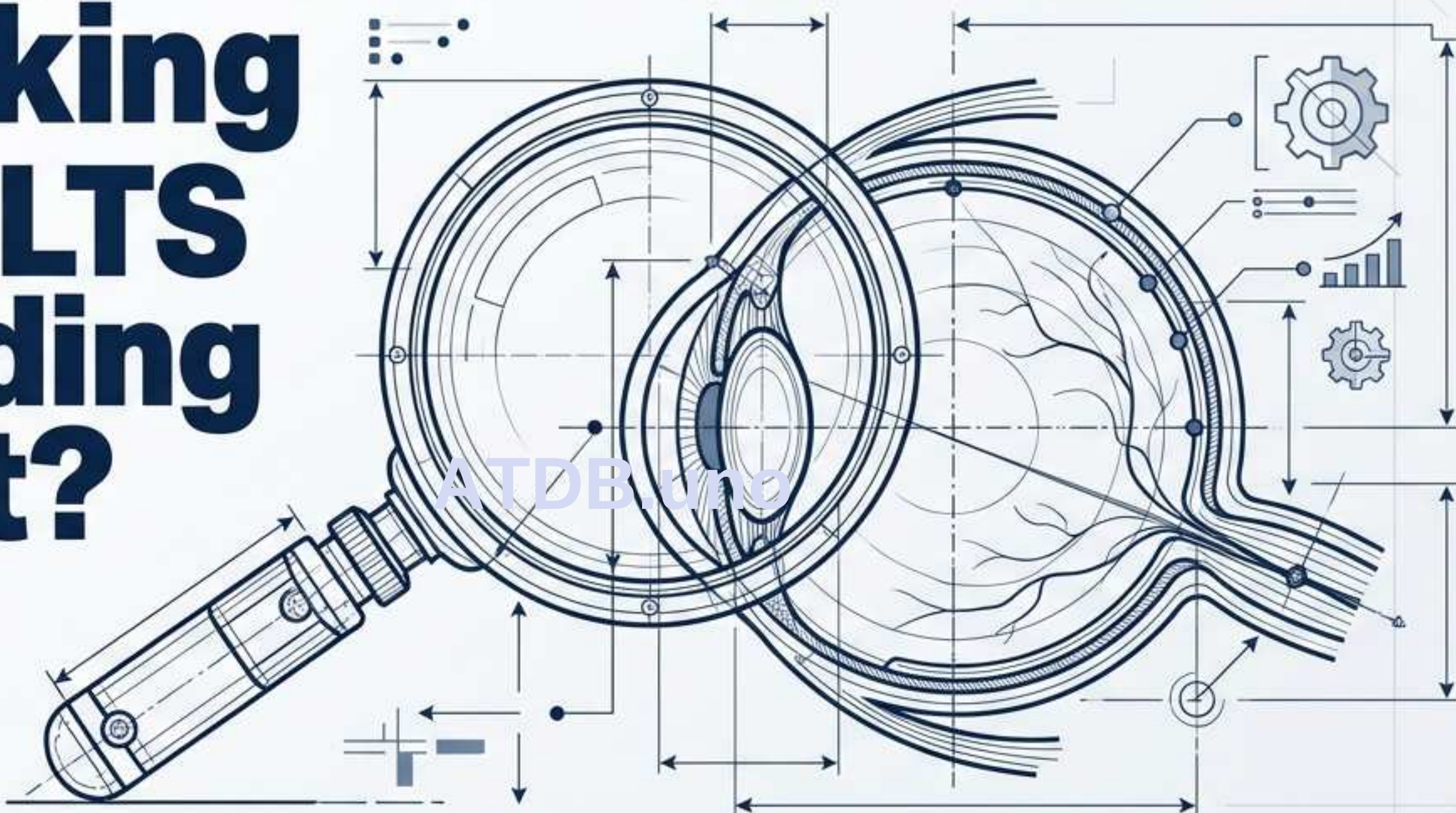
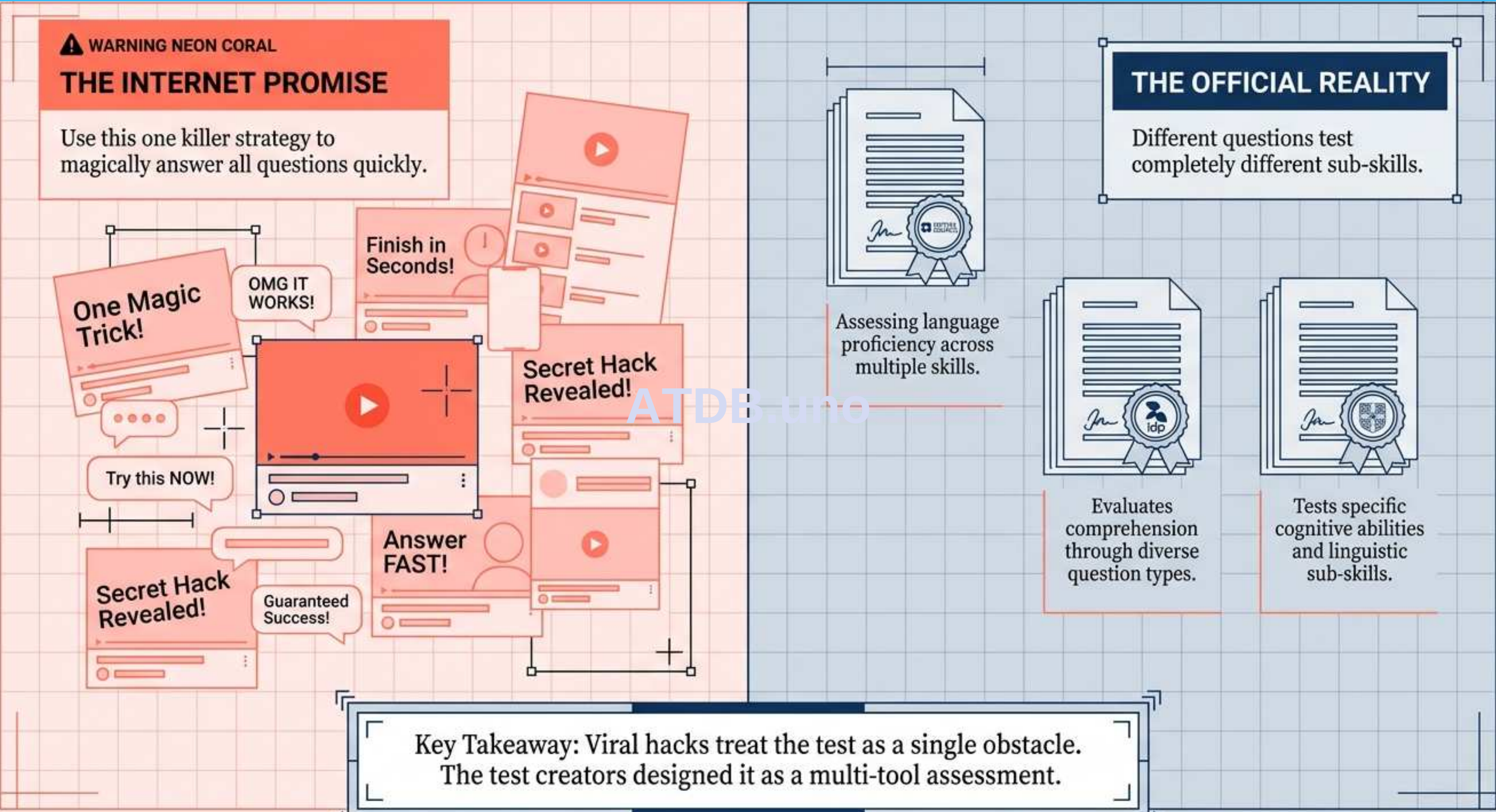


Hacking the IELTS Reading Test?



Why viral ‘tricks’ fail, and the evidence-based strategies that actually unlock a Band 9.



MYTH #1: You only need ONE strategy to skim, scan, and solve the entire reading test.

THE REALITY: The test contains 11 distinct question types. You need 11 unique strategies.



“Every question has one clear purpose to force you to use specific reading skills.” – Pauline Cullen (Cambridge IELTS Author)

Evidence Box

Context Note: The British Council designs separate lesson plans for matching headings, T/F/NG, and comprehension. If they teach them differently, you must test them differently.

Case Study: Matching Headings

The Shortcut That Becomes a Long Cut

1. Skim the paragraph quickly.

2. Scan the long list of headings.

3. Result: "I'm completely lost." (Forced Guessing)

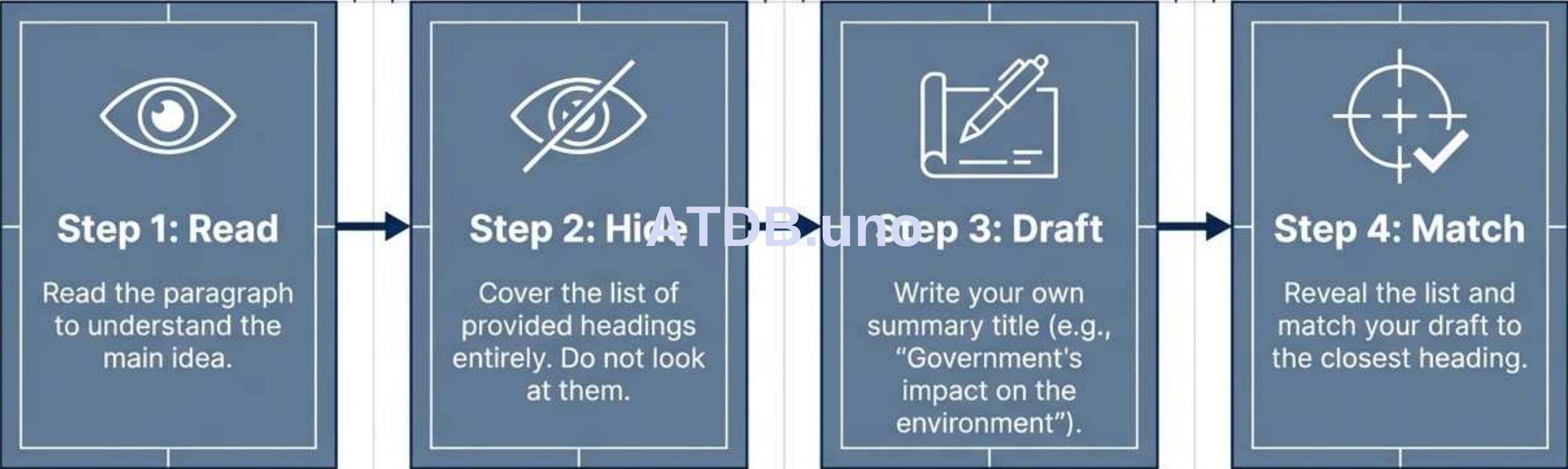


Why it Fails:

Your brain tries to hold too many competing ideas from the headings list while scanning a complex text, leading to total cognitive overload.

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The Mastery Approach: Targeted Strategy



Outcome: Guaranteed accuracy. 'Like magic'—but actually just precise execution.

True / False / Not Given

 | Search Hacks

Magic way!
Magic way!
Secret tricks!
Hack the logic!

**THE MYTH:** True/False/Not Given questions are designed to trick you and require secret logic hacks to solve.

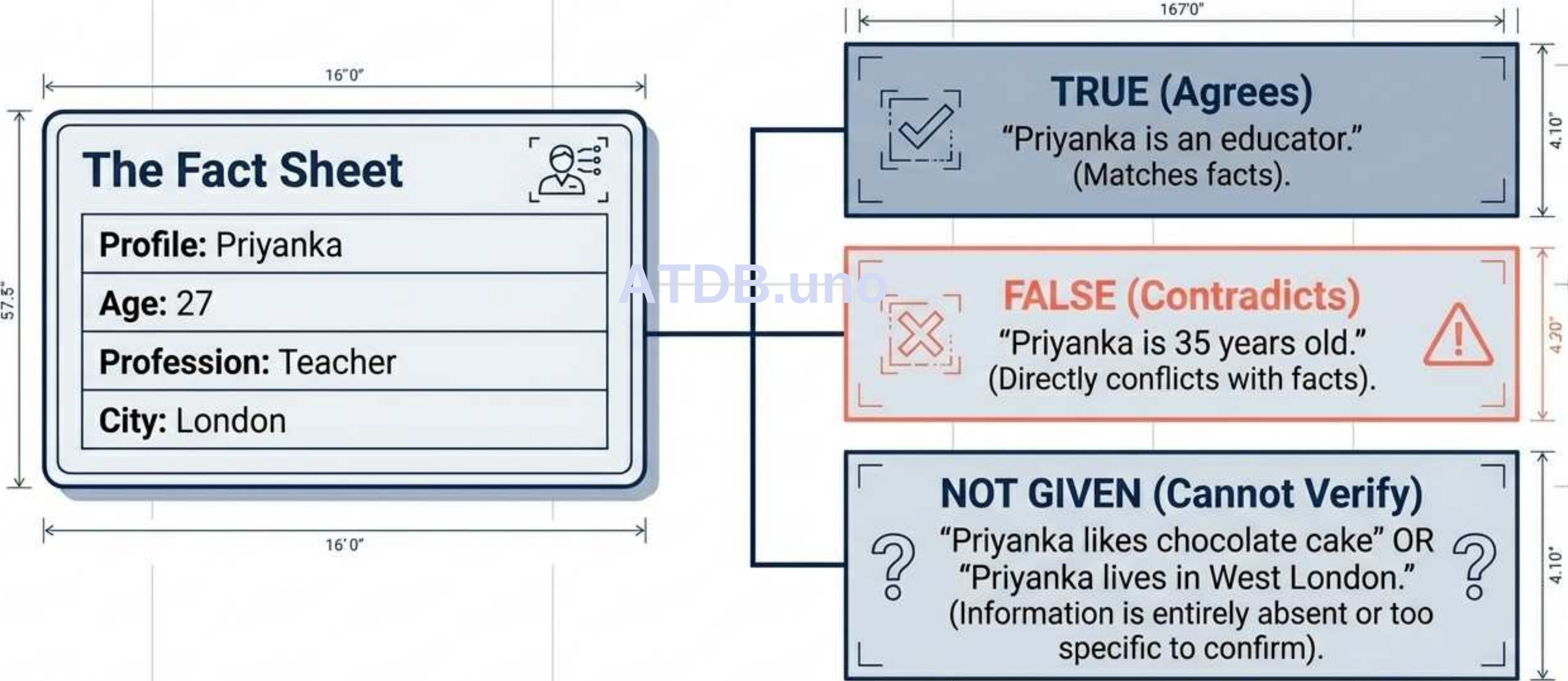


THE REALITY: T/F/NG simply requires a bulletproof understanding of definitions. No magic required.



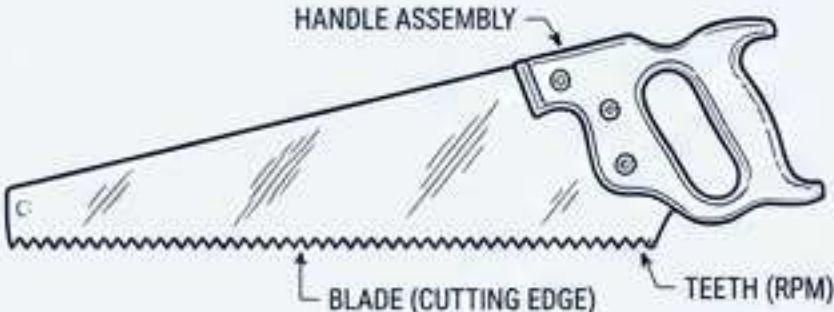
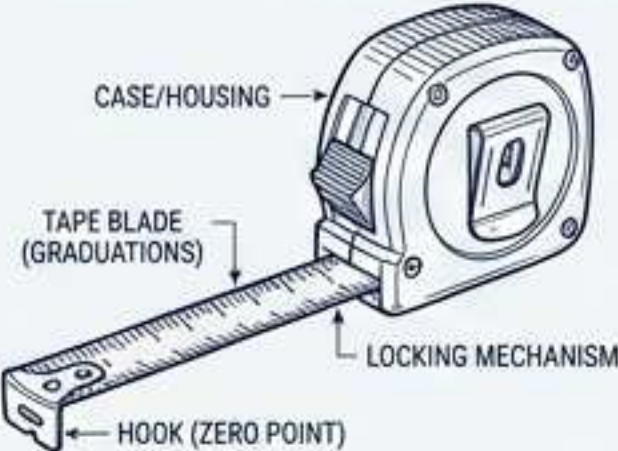
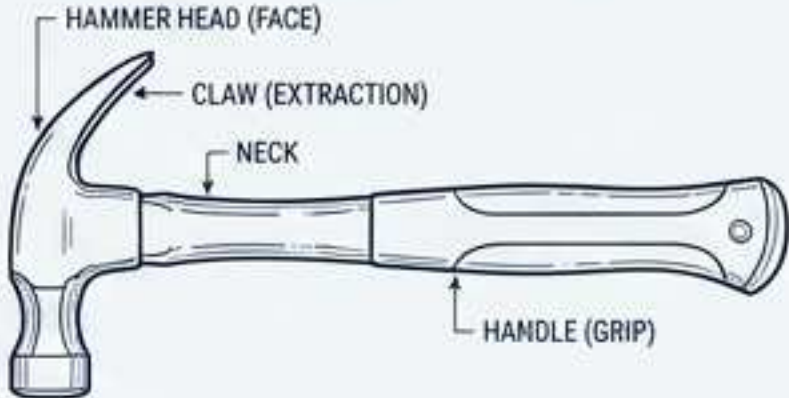
The IDP stated this clearly a decade ago, yet confusion persists because students seek tricks instead of comprehension.

The 'Personal Fact Sheet' Mental Model





The Reading Toolkit

		
Skimming (The Saw)	Scanning (The Tape Measure)	Close Reading (The Hammer)
Function: Reading quickly for general meaning (Main idea).	Function: Looking for a specific keyword or number to find a location.	Function: Reading in absolute detail to fully understand.
✗ Fails when: You need precise answers or specific details.	✗ Fails when: The test relies heavily on synonyms or paraphrasing.	✗ Fails when: Used on the whole text (you will run out of time).

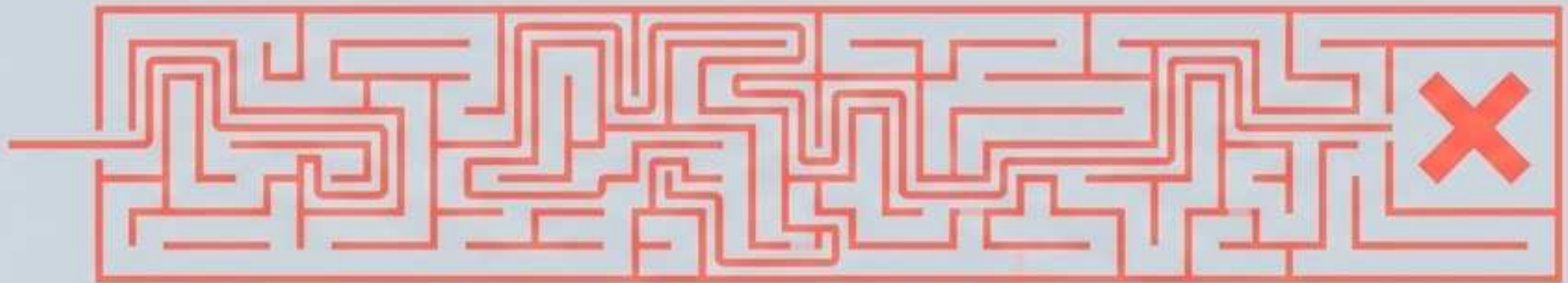
The Ultimate Strategy Framework

Question Type	Primary Skill Tested	Required Tool Sequence	Risk of 'Hacking'
Matching Headings	Main Idea	Close Read (Paragraph) -> Draft -> Match	High (Getting completely lost)
True/False/Not Given	Detail Verification	Scan (for keywords) -> Close Read (specific sentence)	High (Falling for synonym traps)
Comprehension	Fact Finding	Skim (for structure) -> Scan (for detail)	Medium

TAKEAWAY: Strategy dictates the exact order you deploy your tools.

The ROI of Real Strategy

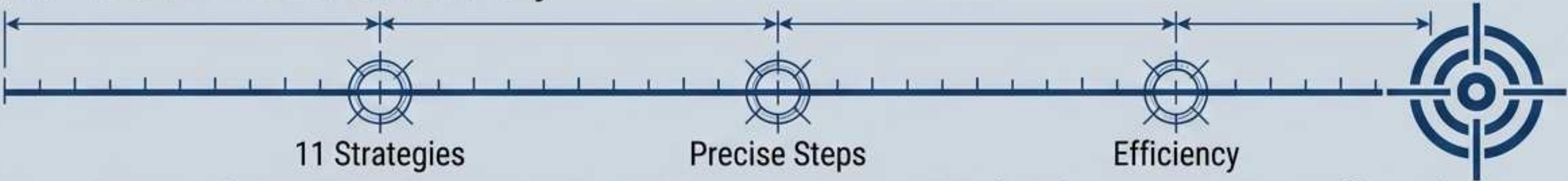
Path A: The Illusion of Speed



Relying on generic tricks -> Misunderstanding the passage -> Failing repeatedly.
Result: Shortcuts become long cuts.

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Path B: Predictable Mastery

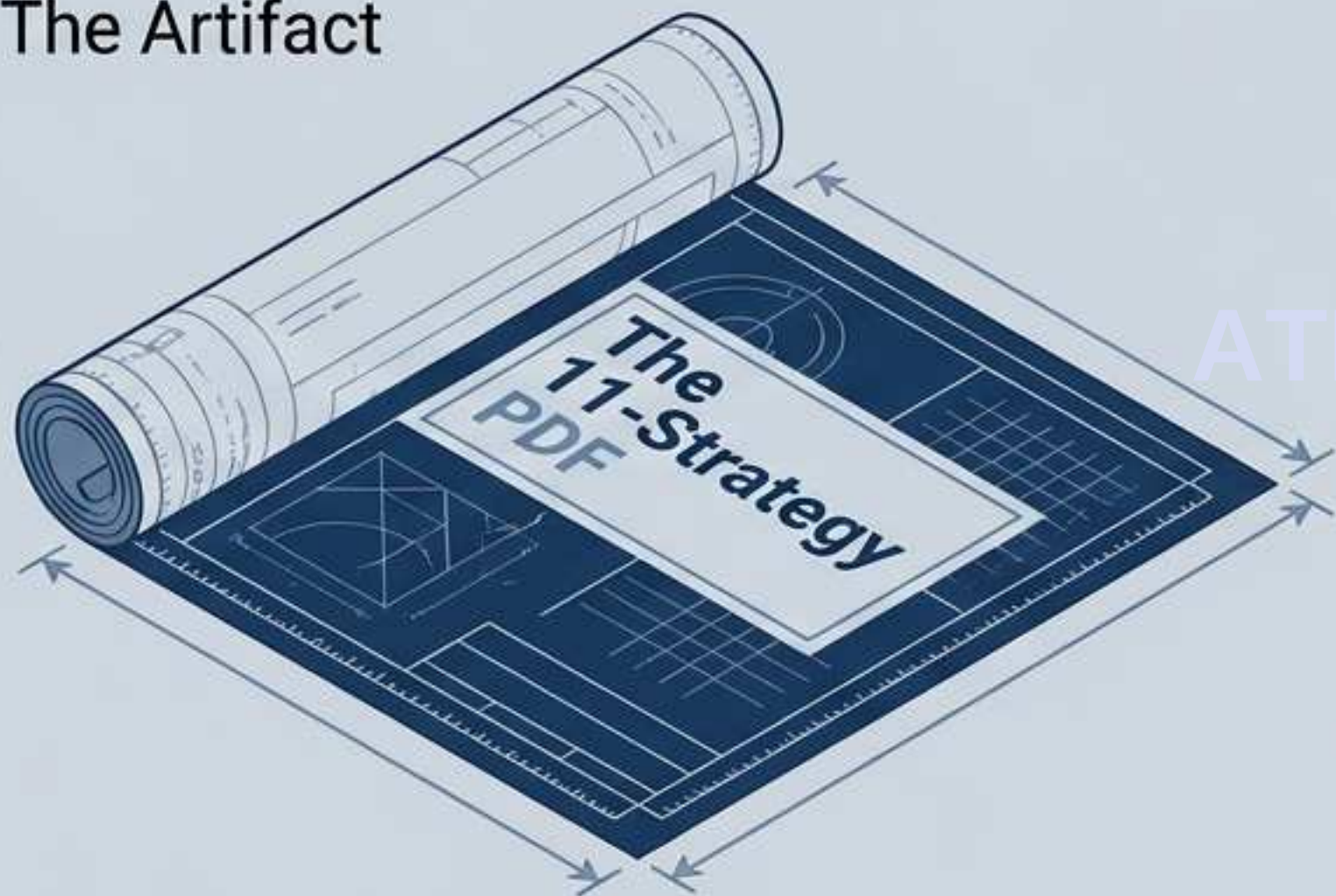


Learning the 11 strategies once -> Executing precise steps -> Finding the correct answer efficiently.
Result: Passing the first time.

Key Insight: Your job on test day is to find the correct answer, not to get through the reading as quickly as possible.

Stop Guessing. Start Executing.

The Artifact

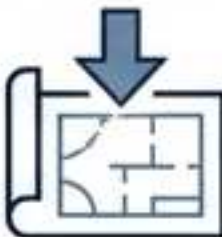


The Action Plan



1. Find Your Blind Spots.

Watch our diagnostic video to identify exactly which of the 11 question types are dragging down your score.



2. Get the Blueprint.

Download the free 11-Strategy IELTS Reading Blueprint to get the step-by-step tool tool sequence for every question type. (Link in description)

Pick one trusted methodology. Master the tools. Get your Band 9.