



ACT



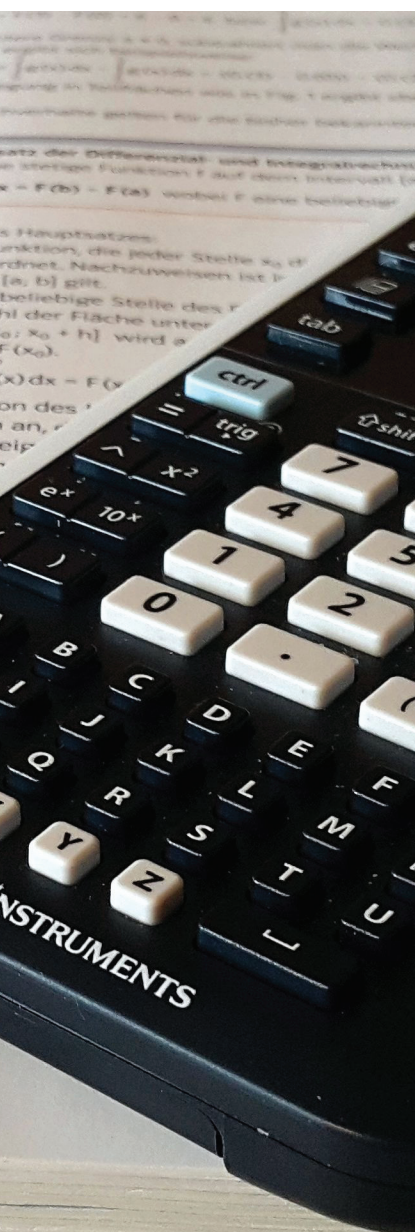
PREPARATION GUIDE

STRATEGIES, TIPS & RESOURCES



English 75 Questions 45 Minutes

- ▶ Grammar skills make up 53%, and rhetorical skills make up 47% of the test.
- ▶ Comprehensively learn the 14 grammar rules.^{1E}
- ▶ Solve all your questions first in the book, then bubble all of them in at once. This can give you back 5 minutes!
- ▶ Read the whole sentence, not just the underlined portion.
- ▶ Be careful with “no change” answers. They only occur about 25% of the time.
- ▶ Rhetorical skills, such as relevance, author intent, formality and tone, and wordiness are tested. Find a strategy for the passages that works for you.^{2E}
- ▶ Know common diction errors - its, it's and its', than vs. then, have vs. of.^{3E}
- ▶ Know the top 150 vocabulary.^{4E}
- ▶ Use practice tests and score your results.^{5E}
- ▶ **Don't RUSH!** Rushing will always cause errors.



Mathematics 60 Questions 60 Minutes

- ▶ Pre-Algebra/Algebra (24 questions)
- ▶ Intermediate Alg./Geometry (18 questions)
- ▶ Plane Geometry/ Trigonometry (18 questions)
- ▶ **20-20-20 rule**
 - First 20 are easy next 20 are intermediate next 20 are difficult
 - Spend 30 seconds on each easy question; 1 minute on the intermediate; 1 ½ minutes on the most difficult
- ▶ **Take two passes over your test**
 - In the first pass, complete all of the easy questions you feel confident about
 - In the second pass, complete the more difficult questions
- ▶ Read through each word problem once, underline terms that you find important to help you understand the question.
- ▶ Use illustrations whenever they are provided or draw your own to better understand the problem!
- ▶ Four ways to eliminate the wrong answers!
 - **Eliminate the one answer that is not like the others.**
For example, if all but one choice is positive, then eliminate the negative one!
 - **Look for round numbers**
The ACT is designed so people without calculators can get a perfect score, so when in doubt, look for the round number answer.
 - **Round up**
If you are running out of time, round the numbers in the problem to those you can work with in your head. Then you can eliminate answers that are off base.
 - **Pick a guessing letter**
If you are guessing blindly, pick one letter and stick with it the whole exam. You will get 20% of the questions correct.



Reading 40 Questions 35 Minutes

- ▶ Skim the text and work on retaining meaning.
- ▶ Use practice tests to perfect your reading strategy.^{1R}
- ▶ Only one answer is 100% correct. Find a reason to eliminate answers (too broad, too specific, unrelated concept).
- ▶ After reading the question, try to form a hunch before reading the answer choices.
- ▶ Start with the passage that you are most interested in.
- ▶ The reading topics may not thrill you, but try to be fascinated by them to stay more engaged.
- ▶ Time is precious. If you can't answer a question in 30 seconds, skip it and move on.
- ▶ The ACT has no penalty for guessing. Make sure every blank has an answer filled in.



Science 40 Questions 35 Minutes

- ▶ There are 6-7 passages. 2-3 Data representation, 2-3 Research Summaries, 1 conflicting viewpoint.
- ▶ Go straight to the questions without reading and try to use the visuals to answer the questions.
- ▶ Here's the actual science you will need to know.^{1S}
- ▶ When you read the passage, answer these questions. What is the main point? What is the figure showing?
- ▶ Be confident in reading a graph. Skim the intro, read the axes, and understand the general shape of the graph.
- ▶ Questions are not in easy to hard order. All questions are worth the same amount, so do the easy ones first!
- ▶ Pay close attention to units and labels.
- ▶ Isolate and identify independent (cause) and dependent (effect) variables. Note how they are measured, related, and how they change.
- ▶ Practice using these free tests.^{2S}

English Helpful Links

- 1E- <https://blog.prepscholar.com/act-grammar-rules>
- 2E- <https://blog.prepscholar.com/the-best-way-to-approach-act-english-passages>
- 3E- <https://blog.prepscholar.com/act-english-word-choice-and-diction-errors>
- 4E- https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hub/360031/file-2311482528-pdf/Documents/PrepScholar_ACT_Vocab_-_Top_150_Words.pdf?t=1433798454484
- 5E- <https://study.com/act/act-practice-tests.html>

Reading Helpful Links

- 1R- <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/reading-practice-test-questions.html>

Science Helpful Links

- 1S- <https://blog.prepscholar.com/the-only-actual-science-you-have-to-know-for-act-science>
- 2S- <https://blog.prepscholar.com/complete-official-act-practice-tests-free-links>



Test Anxiety

1. You have many opportunities to take the ACT so plan on taking it a few times.
2. The test score is only one part of the college entrance process! Colleges will look at many other factors in your application.
3. Prepare necessary items the night before such as your ticket, ID, etc.
4. Eat a good breakfast and avoid items high in sugar or caffeine.
5. Don't do anything the night before the test except relax.
6. Check out the testing site ahead of time if possible. You will test better in an environment you are familiar.
7. Get to the testing site early.
8. Don't pay attention to what others are doing during the test.
9. Watch the clock so you can stay on pace.
10. Stay positive and expect the best!

Helpful Resources

General Tips 2019 - 2020 Guide

<http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/Preparing-for-the-ACT.pdf>

Online Practice Tests

<https://blog.prepscholar.com/complete-official-act-practice-tests-free-links>

<https://study.com/academy/course/act.html>

Colleges that Superscore ACT

<https://blog.prepscholar.com/colleges-that-superscore-act-complete-list>

General ACT Tips for All Tests

<https://www.sheffield.k12.oh.us/Downloads/ACT%20Tips.pdf>



Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center

890 West Fourth Street

Mansfield, Ohio 44906

419.774.5520

moesc.net