

The ACT

American College Test



WHO TAKES THE ACT?

The ACT assesses a student's college readiness across four sections: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. There is also an optional Essay section, which some colleges require for their applicants. A student's ACT score is reflected as a singular composite score, averaging the individual scores of the five sections.

WHAT IS THE ACT LIKE?

Section 1 | English

Students are put in the position of a writer who makes decisions to revise/edit a text. Students are given 45 min to answer a total of 75 multiple choice questions across a span of five passages.

Section 2 | Math

This section is composed of 60 multiple choice questions to be answered in 60 min. Students can expect to see high school level content in the realms of algebra, arithmetic, geometry and trigonometry. Calculators are permitted.

Section 3 | Reading Comprehension

The reading section is a 35-min test that measures students' abilities to reason logically about texts and answer questions using evidence and inferences. The test is comprised of four passages and 40 questions, all of which are multiple choice.

Section 4 | Science

This section is essentially more reading comprehension, just through a scientific lens. A general sense of knowledge acquired from introductory science courses will help students maneuver through this 40-question (all multiple choice), 35-min section.

Section 5 | Essay

Students are given grade-appropriate essay topics. The primary intent of this test section is to evaluate the ability of the students to compose a well-structured personal essay, with equal emphasis on content and mechanics.

WHEN IS THE ACT?

The ACT is offered in February, April, June, July, September, October and December. Ideally, students have 4-8 months of consistent test prep leading up to their first ACT. Students ought to aim to take the test at least twice: once (or twice) in the spring of their junior year, and again in the fall of their senior year. We are careful to pace our prep programs properly, ensuring that students neither burn out or peak too early.

HOW IS THE ACT SCORED?

The number of questions on each section answered correctly is counted. Points for incorrect answers are not deducted. There is no penalty for guessing. Raw scores are converted to scaled scores out of 36 for each section. The composite score is the average of the four multiple choice subtest scores rounded to the nearest whole number.

OUR PROCESS

Assessment

Set up a timetable

Overview of test logistics

Learn all necessary strategies

Test-specific executive functioning

Continuously enrich content gaps

Compile vocabulary / formula list

Ongoing sessions & homework

Monthly test simulations

Test-day preparation