

Gear UP! Test Taking Tips for the ACT!

The ACT a college readiness assessment is a standardized test for high school achievement and college admissions in the United States.

The ACT assessment measures high school students' general educational development and their capability to complete college-level work with the multiple choice tests covering four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science.

ACT

- Science reasoning section
- Math sections include trigonometry
- Vocabulary less important
- Entirely multiple choice
- No guessing penalty
- English grammar tested
- Math accounts for 25% of your score
- Easy and hard questions mixed within sections
- Report scores only from the test dates you choose

About the ACT

Section	Number of Question	Time (Minutes)	Average Score	College Readiness Benchmark
English	75	45	20.6	18
Math	60	60	21.0	22
Reading	40	35	21.4	21
Science	40	35	20.9	24
Composite	20	2-4	21.1	17

STUDENT TEST-TAKING STRATEGY

Preparing for Tests:

- Maintain good study habits: Do class work!
- Make a study schedule and follow it.
- Tell your parents about upcoming test dates.
- Seek and use past homework assignments, class notes, and available review materials.
- See teachers for additional help.
- Attend tutoring sessions when available.
- Get a good night's rest and eat a normal breakfast before testing.
- Prepare materials the night before needed for the test. These include calculators with fresh batteries, #2 pencils (non-mechanical), picture ID, and admission ticket when necessary.

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STUDENT TEST-TAKING STRATEGY

During Tests:

- Read and pay careful attention to all directions.
 - Read each passage and accompanying questions.
 - Read every possible answer – the best one could be last.
 - Read and respond to items one at a time rather than thinking about the whole test.
 - Reread, when necessary, the parts of a passage needed for selecting the correct answer.
- Don't expect to find a pattern in the positions of the correct answers.
- Don't make uneducated guesses. Try to get the correct answer by reasoning and eliminating wrong answers.
- Decide exactly what the question is asking; one response is clearly best.
- Don't spend too much time on any one question.
- Skip difficult questions until all other questions have been answered. On scrap paper, keep a record of the unanswered items to return to, if time permits.
- Make sure to record the answer in the correct place on the answer sheet.
- Only change an answer if you are sure the first one you picked was wrong. Be sure to completely erase changed answers.
- Work as rapidly as possible with accuracy.
- After completion of the test, use any remaining time to check your answers.
- Keep a good attitude. Think positively!



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PARENT TEST-SUPPORT STRATEGIES

Preparing for Tests:

- Note test dates on your home calendar; schedule appointments on non-testing days.
- Encourage your child to take responsibility for homework and class study.
- Create an environment at home that provides a quiet study place at regular times daily.
- Help your child learn how to find important information independently.
- Praise your child for work done well.
- Encourage your child to ask questions at home and in class.
- Get to know your child's teachers.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences.
- Confer with teachers on a regular basis for progress reports.
- Gather available test preparation materials.
- Assure your child knows that you value a good education.

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PARENT TEST-SUPPORT STRATEGIES

Testing Day:

- See that your child is rested and eats breakfast.
- See that your child arrives at school on time and is relaxed.
- Encourage your child to do the best work possible.
- Do not send your child to school if illness is apparent.
- Do not remove your child from school on test days for appointments.

After Testing:

- Examine all test reports sent home.
- Determine areas of strengths and weaknesses.
- Praise your child's testing strengths and make a plan to address identified weaknesses.
- See your child's principal, counselor or teacher if additional information is required.

Test Anxiety:

- A certain degree of test anxiety is normal and may help students prepare more effectively, work more efficiently, and remain focused during testing.
- Discuss the test openly and in a positive way.
- Have realistic expectations of your child's performance while encouraging his/her best efforts.
- Emphasize that the test is only one measure of academic performance.
- Emphasize that test scores do not determine a person's worth.

