

ACT READING

40 Questions: 35 Minutes

- 1 - Always skim the paragraph before you start answering questions.
- 2 – Then quickly read all of the questions but be sure not to read the answers yet. Once you have read the questions the answers will stick out to you more when you are reading the paragraph.
- 3 - Do not leave any questions unanswered because you don't get punished for wrong answers, you just get credit for right answers.
- 4 - Use the process of elimination when you have to guess. Some answers are obviously wrong so use educated guesses.
- 5 – Time yourself during the practice session to see how your pace is.
- 6 – Mark up your passages. Write all over it. It is yours and you are allowed to. Underline important parts of the passage. This is especially helpful when paired with tip 2. When you know the questions you will see the answers as you read and you can put a mark by them.
- 7 – Usually answers are not correct if they include phrases like; everyone agrees, they are entirely, or other answers that are totally one sided and leave no room for exceptions. Rarely is something so set in stone that it is worth writing an opinion on.

What will I be tested on?

You need to be able to determine the main idea of each reading.

You need to understand significant details and understand sequence of events.

You need to be able to make comparisons and determine cause and effect.

You need to be able to analyze the author's voice and method.

You need to be able to determine the meaning of context dependent words and phrases.

This information is from actstudent.org and they create the ACT test. You can take practice tests at <http://goo.gl/GOzhn> or scan this and practice on your smart phone or tablet.



ENGLISH ACT STUDY TIPS

75 Questions: 45 Minutes

Things that are not tested

Spelling is not tested on the ACT English test. Nor are specific rules of grammar, although it is useful if you know them. Likewise, vocabulary lies beyond the test's scope, but it is to your advantage to have as wide a range as possible.

Things that are tested

- The difference between fragment and run on sentences.
- Word usage like differences in affect versus effect, their versus they're etc...
- Appropriate usage of adjectives and verbs etc...
- Also important is your ability to analyze a passage in terms of style, tone, and structure.

The ACT is strict on redundancy and repeating itself. So if something is redundant and repetitive they will expect you to remove it and take it out. (Get it?)

The ACT is strict on Verbosity. That means that they want you to answer things in the shortest way that is still grammatically correct. See section A under rhetoric below.

Scoring

There are two sub scores for English. These sections are for your use. Colleges don't care about them.

1 – Mechanics A – You will be tested on your knowledge of punctuation as well as grammar.

2 – Rhetoric A - There are questions that use 2 words when only 1 word should be used. For example, the slothful and lazy dog slept on the couch all day. You should only use slothful or lazy; after you've made your choice, mentally substitute your answer into the underlined portion to see if it seems correct. Other than looking at redundancy, you will be tested on ambiguous pronouns and wordiness.

B – Some of these questions will judge whether or not you understand of phrasing, judging the effect of adding, revising, or deleting supporting material; and judging the relevance of statements in context.

C – There will also be questions that test how well you organize ideas and choose effective opening, transitional, and closing sentences.

The ACT **does not** penalize incorrect answers; it just gives credit for correct answers so never leave anything blank.

For some great sample questions that can be done online and give explanations of why an answer is right or wrong go to <http://goo.gl/E34Rt> or scan this into your phone

There are also practice tests for the other ACT subjects on this site as well!



Remember to read each question! Sometimes it is asking about the paragraph above or below the underlined section and if you don't read the question you will not know that.

And may the odds, be ever in your favor. (Effie Trinkett)

ACT SCIENCE - 40 questions in 35 minutes.

Important Note: The science section puts in all sorts of information that is not important to you as a test taker. They do this to confuse you and make the test harder and take up your time. The info usually has something to do with the data presented but you do not need to understand the science behind the results, you just need to be able to interpret the results and just as importantly you need to understand what process they use to get those results. Do not get hung up on the unimportant stuff. The information is meant to be difficult to read and understand so don't waste your precious time.

Skim the reading, charts, figures, and tables. Then start answering questions which will require you to read parts of all of those things more closely.

Section One – Data

-On the graphs, **make ABSOLUTELY certain** that you are reading the x and y axis information correctly.

Section Two – Research Summaries

- This will include a description of experiments and projects done and questions about the research outcomes.



Section 3 – Conflicting Viewpoints

- Two or more scientist viewpoints or hypotheses that will differ from each other and you have to analyze both of their arguments and see how they differ as well as how points that they agree on. This is the main section where reading the paragraphs is important. The others you can skim but look closely at these paragraphs.

- This section is comparable to the reading section but with more scientific terms in it.

Sample question: There are several sections to practice on at <http://goo.gl/om8lo> which is from the company that creates the ACT or you can scan this and practice on your smart phone or tablet.

Depth (cm)	Temperature (°C)	pH	Concentration in sediment (ppm)					
			SO ₄ ²⁻	S ²⁻	CO ₂	Fe ³⁺	Fe ²⁺	O ₂
0	4	7.0	7.0	0.0	1.0	4.0	0.5	2.0
5	5	6.5	5.0	2.0	1.5	3.0	1.5	1.0
10	7	6.0	3.5	3.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0
15	9	5.5	3.3	3.8	3.0	0.8	3.8	0.0
20	10	5.0	3.0	4.0	1.0	0.5	4.0	0.0

If the trends indicated in the table were to continue, one would predict the pH of the sediments at a depth of 35 cm to be: A: 1.5 B: 3.5 C: 4.5 D: 6.0

ACT Math Preparation

60 Questions in 60 Minutes

The math section is set up to trick you. The question creators create a problem and then create the correct answer. The next step is to create answers that come up if you make a miscalculation. So your **mistakes are potential answers** when you miscalculate.

That means it's pretty important to write out your equations. You are allowed to use a calculator so do, but do not rely upon it completely. Use the pencil and scratch paper provided to write out the steps.

For Example one question reads: When $x = 3$ and $y = 5$, by how much does the value of $3x^2 - 2y$ exceed the value of $2x^2 - 3y$?

If you do not read the question carefully it is easy to get the wrong Answer. Also if you try to remember that the first equation =17 and decide that is easy to remember that is a mistake waiting to happen.



The types of math tested on the ACT are 23% Pre-Algebra, 17% Elementary Algebra, 15% Intermediate Algebra, 15% Coordinate Geometry, and 23% Plane Geometry and 7% Trigonometry.

If you have enough time then go back and plug answers into equations and make sure that they come out right.

The number one thing that is going to help you is to practice. The number two thing that will help you out is to practice some more. Get the point? Actstudent.org has some great practice problems and tips to help you. This is especially helpful because this is direct questions from the corporation that is in charge of the ACT. Go to <http://goo.gl/8ogN> or put this in your smart phone.

While going through sample problems with students I tried to do this one in my head rather than write it down. It goes: What is the value of x when $2x + 3 = 3x - 4$?

I forgot to carry the negative sign over and my first thought was -7. But, it is positive 7. That is the silly and easy stuff you miss when you try to hurry too much or you think you don't need to write stuff down.

Good luck to you and don't be lazy. This is your future we are dealing with here.