

The ACT COMPONENTS at a glance

(All four components count equally & are averaged to get the composite score.)

TESTS:	ENGLISH	MATH	READING	SCIENCE REASONING
Total Number of questions:	75	60	40	40
TIME:	45 min.	60 min.	35 min.	35 min.
Arranged in	5 sets of 15 A = no change	Easiest to hardest	4 passages 1 st FICTION; 2 nd S.S.; 3 rd Hum.; 4 th Science	7 sets of varying subjects 6 have charts & graphs of data. One has no charts & graphs.
Key Points:	Grammar Go in order Choose shortest	Go slower FOCUS ON 1 st 30 prob. Know formulas.	Go out of order by preference of topic & pointer questions [In lines 3 -5...]	Go out of order by preference Observe the EASY-EASY-EASY- HARD-HARD-HARD pattern
Benchmark scores ACT For \$4000 HOPE Scholarship In all TN colleges	<u>44 right</u> = 18 75 possible	<u>36 right</u> = 22 60 possible	<u>22 right</u> = 21 40 possible	<u>30 right</u> = 24 40 possible
29 on ACT: for extra \$1000 Added to the \$4000 HOPE scholarship in all TN colleges	<u>65 right</u> = 29 75 possible	<u>50 right</u> = 29 60 possible	<u>32 right</u> = 29 40 possible	<u>36 right</u> = 29 40 possible
Perfect score:	36	36	36	36

****Some colleges will SUPERScore all the ACT tests you have taken. Some colleges also give substantial scholarships for very high ACT scores.

If a student makes 18 or lower in ANY one of the four subtests listed above, he will probably be placed in college REMEDIAL classes in those subjects. These classes do cost money, but they don't count toward any college degree. Many first semester freshmen begin college with REMEDIAL classes!!!

Tuesday, MARCH 20, 2012 Test Paid for by state of TN All juniors take ACT during school!

You may also sign up for the ACT question of the day (short daily practice) at this website: www.act.org

Specific ACT Tips from Teachers & other test-taking Students

The week before:

- **Practice the actual test** questions from the free booklet, and check your answers often to see if you understand the ACT Company's many tricks. Practice on-line test with THS website's Tennessee Electronic Library.
- Do work to **stimulate** your mind (crossword puzzles, brain puzzles, Sudoku). Practice mental alertness & stamina.
- Gather all your materials and lay them out two or three days in advance.
- **Specifically** these items include your Admission Ticket, Batteries for your Calculator, Calculator, soft Eraser, I.D. (or recent yearbook), regular wooden Pencils, Snacks to set outside of the room & bottle of Water, and quiet wrist Watch. No watches or calculators may make any beeps or sounds to distract anyone during the test.
- Get **sleep** for several days ahead of time. Try 9:30 or 10:00 p.m. each night.
- Talk positively to yourself. Think, "Rest." Think, "ACE THE A.C.T." Think, "Be prepared." No negativity allowed!
- Tell others you're taking the test, and **ask** for their best test-taking tips and their support/prayers.

The night before:

- Eat a healthy dinner, and go over some last minute questions.
- Get a good night's sleep of 8-10 hours.

The morning of the test:

- Refresh yourself in the morning (shower, wash face, etc.)
- Have a positive attitude. Lots of positive self-talk is great!
- Do NOT add stress to your morning...no arguing or complaining.
- Don't drink energy drinks. You'll crash before the test is over!!!
- Eat a good **breakfast** with protein in it, not only carbs and fats.
- Wear **comfortable** clothes and shoes. Don't wear perfume.
- Dress in **layers** in case it's too hot or too cold in many of the rooms.
- Leave phone in car or at home. If it rings, you're kicked out of the test!
- Bring glasses if you wear contacts. Bring your contact case, as well.
- Bring peppermints, soft peppermint patties, or wintergreen mints to help stimulate your memory (unwrapped is convenient and quiet).
- Listen to **calming, upbeat, or energetic** music before the test. What works best for you?
- **Be EARLY** 15-30 minutes arriving at the testing site.
- 7:30 a.m. is the best time to get in line because you can precede the masses, start quicker, and get out sooner. Breathe. Think. Focus.

During the TEST:

- STAND UP, and **move** around during short breaks.
- During the "leave-the-room" break, have a quick energizing snack in the hall, and use the restroom.

- Periodically throughout the A.C.T. physically cross the midline of your body in order to reconnect your brain. Brain gym exercises will help you think.
- Write in the test booklet. Circle your answers there, put question marks, and transfer answers to the answer sheet in groups, not one-by-one.
- If you're unsure about a question, skip it, and go back to it later.
- In the **English section, go in order**, omitting or guessing on the ones you don't know. 75 questions. 45 minutes.
- In the **math section**, be sure to **take your time on the first 30**. You do not actually have to "finish" all 60 questions to earn a good score. 60 minutes. 60 questions. Easier ones are first.
- In the **reading section, do your favorite** passage first (you don't have to go in order.) Do the "pointer" questions before the "main idea" and "all of these except" questions. FICTION IS FIRST, Social Studies is second, Humanities is third, and Natural Science is last. Reading: 40 questions, 4 equal passages, 35 minutes.
- In the **science section, skip a passage** that's too annoying. Focus on getting CORRECT the (EZ-EZ-EZ-trick-trick) questions on a passage and topic that you enjoy. Science Reasoning: 40 questions, 7 unequal passages, 35 min.
- If you have extra time, go back and check your answers. Do not sleep.
- When the 1-minute time warning is given at the end, guess fast, but not C.
- You are **not allowed** to go back to any previous test after time is over for that test. This is cheating. You can go only check the test you're taking.

Further Tips for ACT/SAT:

- Have a photo ID—driver's license or passport (work ID's or credit card ID's are not acceptable)
- No Cell Phones (noise!)—also cannot be used in the halls during breaks!
- No watches that beep or make sounds
- No calculators that beep or make sounds
- No mechanical pencils (Use only #2 pencils with a good eraser)
- No scratch paper—all writing must be done in booklets
- YOU cannot leave the building during breaks
- YOU cannot eat or drink in the testing room
- ID's are checked at least twice—at the check-in and before entering the testing room
- Students are directed to seats—you cannot sit wherever you want
- Facts or math formulas must be covered on classroom walls
- Time a student takes for unscheduled "leave-the-classroom" breaks due to illness cannot be made up!
- Know how to write in basic cursive handwriting for the statement.
- Room supervisor keeps the time, so do not be checking your watch. The classroom clocks are supposed to be visible on the wall or front of the testing room.
- All seats must be in the same direction—space at least three feet by three feet, head to head.
- "Standby students" are seated last, in the last classroom to be filled. Your completed personal information and checks must be in sealed ACT envelope to be mailed with score sheets to ACT. No cash money is taken at the testing center. The booklet is located in GUIDANCE.