

# Description of the ACT

The ACT (No Writing) consists of four multiple-choice tests: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. The ACT Plus Writing includes the four multiple-choice tests and a [Writing Test](#).

Test	Content		
<a href="#">English</a>	75 questions	45 minutes	Measures standard written English and rhetorical skills.
<a href="#">Mathematics</a>	60 questions	60 minutes	Measures mathematical skills students have typically acquired in courses taken up to the beginning of grade 12.
<a href="#">Reading</a>	40 questions	35 minutes	Measures reading comprehension.
<a href="#">Science</a>	40 questions	35 minutes	Measures the interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problem-solving skills required in the natural sciences.
<a href="#">Optional Writing Test</a>	1 prompt	30 minutes	Measures writing skills emphasized in high school English classes and in entry-level college composition courses.

## What is the ACT?

The ACT is a national college admissions examination that consists of subject area tests in English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. There is a 30-minute Writing test add-on that is required by some colleges.

## Why take the ACT?

All four-year colleges and universities in the United States accept the ACT for admission. Other reasons for taking the ACT according to the company's website include:

- Questions are based on what students actually are learning.
- There are many ways to prepare for the ACT.
- Student can choose which scores they send to colleges.

## What are some tips for doing well on the ACT?

- Read all questions and follow the instructions.
- Be conscious of the time; it is a timed test.
- Answer all questions; there is no penalty for guessing.
- Don't spend too much time on the difficult questions; skip and come back to them.

Learn more testing tips on the ACT website.

<http://www.actstudent.org/testprep/tips/>

### **How do colleges use ACT scores?**

The Composite score is used for admission, but the subtests are used to schedule classes. Students' scores in English and Math determine if they will take developmental or regular courses. Some colleges require the writing test.

### **How many times can a student take the ACT?**

Students can test as many times as they like. According to the ACT website, 57% of retesters increased their Composite score.

### **How early should students take the ACT?**

Unless they qualify for the Duke TIP program, middle school students should probably wait to take the ACT. In most cases, they have not had the courses that would help them do well. They would do better taking the **EXPLORE** test which is a pre-ACT for eighth and ninth graders. <http://www.act.org/explorestudent/>

### **How much does it cost to take the ACT?**

The test fee is \$36.50 for the ACT without the writing test. With the writing test added, the fee is \$52.50. The test fee covers reports for up to four college choices.

### **Are there opportunities to take the ACT for free?**

Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch can take the ACT up to two times with a fee waiver. Students in 11th and 12th grade are eligible. Students must contact a school counselor for an ACT Waiver Form.

Learn more on the ACT FAQs page. <http://www.actstudent.org/faq/>

Parents and students are encouraged to talk with their high school counselors for information about the ACT.

For registration, checklists, testing schedules and more, visit <http://www.actstudent.org/>.

### **ACT Resources:**

#### **Preparing for the ACT:**

Full-Length Practice Tests, including:

- A writing test
- Information about the optional writing test
- Strategies to prepare for the test
- What to expect on test day

PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT

#### **Facebook:**

Like 'The ACT Test' and ask questions about preparation and follow discussions.

#### **ACT Student App for iPhone and iPod touch:**

Using the "Practice" feature, students can attempt answers to practice items and gain feedback from their attempts. <http://www.act.org/mobileapps/actstudent/>

**ACT Question of the Day:**

One question a day from the English, Math, Reading, or Science components of past ACT tests.

<http://www.act.org/qotd/>

**Family Firsts: Your Support Will Make a Difference**

This resource provides information for parents who have a child who will be the first in their family to go to college.

*PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT*

**ACT College Readiness Standards**

ACT College Readiness Standards relate test scores to the types of skills needed for success and serve as a direct link between what students have learned and what they are ready to learn next. There are College Readiness Standards for English, Math, Reading, Science, and Writing.

Scroll down to the bottom of the screen for 'Ideas for Progress.' The 'Ideas for Progress' will aid educators in planning activities that will help students improve skills as they pertain to the College Readiness Standards for each subject.

<http://www.act.org/standard/index.html>

**Abbreviated Test Booklet**

This booklet provides sample test questions from each of the four content areas measured by the multiple choice tests on the ACT.

*PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT*

<http://www.actstudent.org/> - the official website of the ACT offers affordable online training and books for individuals preparing to take the ACT. The online training is less than \$25 for a full year. The official guide with five practice tests can be ordered for around \$35. The site also includes free practice tests for each subject area.

**ACT resources and materials for educators and students.**

<http://www.act.org/aap/resources.html>

**Student site for ACT test takers.**

<http://www.actstudent.org/>

**Teacher SAT materials.**

<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/testing/sat-reasoning/prep/teacher>

**ACT or SAT test; links to free sites which help students prepare for the ACT or SAT exam**

[http://www.internet4classrooms.com/act\\_sat.htm](http://www.internet4classrooms.com/act_sat.htm)

**Teacher ACT resources, College Readiness**

<http://www.act.org/k12/>

## **ACT Resources**

<http://www.act.org/education/resources.html>

**Free mathematics preparation content of this website.**

<http://www.free-test-online.com/act-test-1>

## **ACT Research Reports on Work Readiness**

[http://www.act.org/workreadiness/?utm\\_campaign=2013wrkreadystds&utm\\_source=vre-mail&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=announcevr](http://www.act.org/workreadiness/?utm_campaign=2013wrkreadystds&utm_source=vre-mail&utm_medium=email&utm_content=announcevr)

**ACT Engage Info:** <http://www.act.org/engage/>

## **ACT-Quality Core:**

This is what the consultants from Attack the Gap were talking about last year. Each test is comprised of two parts and each requires 45 minutes for completion, or 1 hour 30 minutes for the set.

When you build your class (es) on the Quality Core website, you may reallocate units for either test mode (paper-and-pencil or computer-based) and revise your test date.

Please see me and I can give you a password to get set up.

<http://www.act.org/qualitycore/>

## **Courses Covered**

### **English**

English 9

English 10

English 11

English 12

### **Math**

Algebra I

Geometry

Algebra II

Precalculus

### **Science**

Biology

Chemistry

Physics

### **Social Studies**

U.S. History

## **Shmoop ACT Resources**

<http://www.shmoop.com/act/about-act/act-reading/>

<http://www.shmoop.com/act/about-act/act-math/act-math-strategies.html>

<http://www.shmoop.com/act/about-act/act-english/act-english-strategies.html>

<http://www.shmoop.com/act/about-act/act-science/act-science-strategies.html>

<http://www.shmoop.com/act/about-act/act-writing/act-writing-strategies.html>