

# ACT Prep for SUCCESS!!



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# Welcome!

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**What is the ACT?**



## What is the ACT?

- **ACT is a test that measures college readiness and is used for college admissions, merit-based scholarships and dual enrollment.**
- **There is a correlation between these three assessments:**
  - **ACT (college readiness)**
  - **ASVAB (military readiness)**
  - **ACT WorkKeys (career/work readiness)**

**ACT**<sup>®</sup>

# ACT Overview

- [See the link here](#) for the overview of the test
- [ACT FACT SHEET](#)

	Time Question #s	Skills/Concepts	Question Types
English	75 questions in 45 min.	grammar & usage, punctuation, sentence structure, strategy, organization, and style	four-choice, multiple-choice usage/mechanics and rhetorical skills questions
Math	60 questions in 60 min.	pre-algebra, elementary algebra, intermediate algebra, coordinate geometry, plane geometry, and trigonometry	five-choice, multiple-choice questions
Reading	40 questions in 35 min.	reading comprehension of what is directly stated or implied	four-choice, multiple-choice referring and reasoning questions
Science	40 questions in 35 min.	interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problem solving	four-choice, multiple-choice data representation, research summaries, and conflicting viewpoints questions
Writing	1 essay in 40 min.	writing skills	one essay, the prompt addresses contemporary issues, such as the pros and

# ACT Benchmark Scores



These are the scores colleges are looking for on the ACT subtests and the overall composite or average of their scores:

- **English - 18**
- **Math - 22**
- **Reading - 22**
- **Science - 23**
- **Overall Composite- 19**

# WHY the ACT MATTERS

Students earning an ACT composite score of 19 or higher meet the state's definition of being college-ready: this is the minimum ACT score required for consideration for admission to one of the University of North Carolina System's 17 university campuses. The minimum ACT score was raised from 17 to 19 beginning in the 2021-22 school year. Scores at or above the threshold are associated with an increased probability of acceptance at a UNC school: in 2018 half of North Carolina residents with an ACT score of 17 were accepted to one of the state's selective UNC System schools.

# WHY the ACT MATTERS

Research, using the previous UNC minimum of 17, indicates that ACT composite scores are also associated with [first-year GPA](#) and [degree completion](#). Nearly half (47%) of students with an ACT score of 17 earn a first-year college GPA of 2.50 or higher. A composite score of 17 is also associated with a roughly 50% chance of associate or bachelor's completion within six years of enrolling in college.







# NC ACT PERFORMANCE 2023



## Meeting the 2030 Goal

North Carolina needs 28,842 more 11<sup>th</sup> graders to earn a 19 or higher on the ACT to meet the statewide ACT performance goal.

During the 2022-23 school year, 41% of students earned an ACT composite score of 19 or higher.

### *Trends*

The ACT was first administered to all North Carolina 11<sup>th</sup> graders during the 2012-13 school year. The minimum ACT composite score for UNC admission was 17 from the 2012-13 school year to the 2020-21 school year. No trends are available past 2020-21 as the minimum score was raised to 19 in 2021-22.

**What Can I Do to  
Prepare for the Content  
of the Assessments?**

# ACT Strategies



**Get familiar with the  
structure of ACT  
questions & directions**

**ACT<sup>®</sup>**

# ACT Strategies



# Take timed practice ACT tests

35 

MINUTES

40 

QUESTIONS

# ACT Resources for Practice Quizzes



- [ACT Resources for Preparation Sites \(many have free practice tests\)](#)
- [ACT Fact Sheet for Students](#)
- [ACT Presentation for Students](#)



# ACT Strategies



**Study main concepts  
in each test section**



# English

**The ACT English** test is a 75-question, 45-minute test that measures your understanding of the conventions of standard English and knowledge of language. 5 essays or passages - edit specific sentences for grammar

**Production of Writing (29–32%), Knowledge of Language (13–19%), Conventions of Standard English (51–56%)**

# English TIPS

Let's look at TIPS for English SUCCESS!!





# Math

**The ACT Mathematics** test is a 60-question, 60-minute test designed to assess the mathematical skills students have typically acquired in courses taken up to the beginning of grade 12.

**Preparing for Higher Math (57–60%)**

**Number & Quantity (7-10%), Algebra (12–15%)**

**Functions (12-15%), Modeling (>25%)**

**Geometry (12–15%), Statistics & Probability (8–12%)**

**Integrating Essential Skills (40–43%)**

# MATH TIPS

- **Use the calculator wisely (if you do not need it, do not use it)**
- **Solve the problem**
- **Find your solution among the answer choices**
- **Answer each question**
- **Make sure your answer is reasonable**
- **Check your answer if there is time**
- **DO NOT spend more time than necessary on the initial problems. The test becomes increasingly difficult.**

# Reading

*The ACT Reading* test is a 40-question, 35-minute test that measures your reading comprehension. 4 readings passages- Prose Fiction, Social Science, Humanities, and Natural Science (10 questions per passage.)

**Key Ideas and Details (55-60%)**

**Craft and Structure (25-30%)**

**Integration of Knowledge and Ideas (13–18%)**

# Reading TIPS

Let's look at TIPS for Reading SUCCESS!!

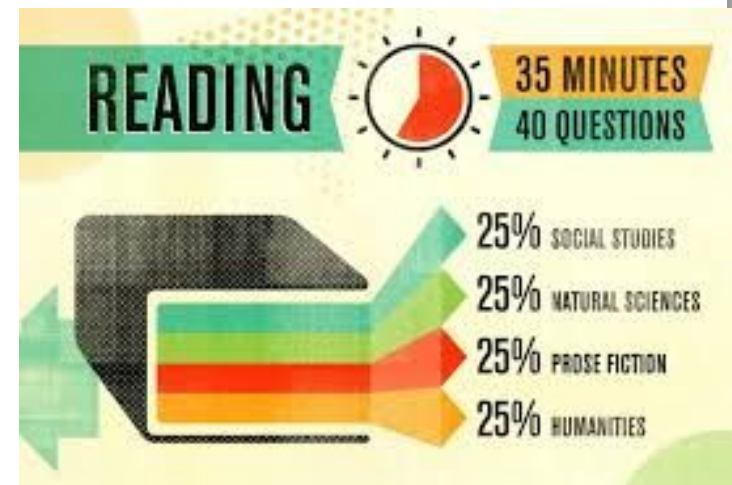


# Reading Format



**Literature**  
**Humanities**  
**Social Sciences**  
**Natural Science**

(Three standalone passages  
and one set of paired passages)



# Reading Instructions



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## READING TEST

*35 Minutes—40 Questions*

**DIRECTIONS:** There are several passages in this test. Each passage is accompanied by several questions. After reading a passage, choose the best answer to each question and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. You may refer to the passages as often as necessary.

# Reading Strategies



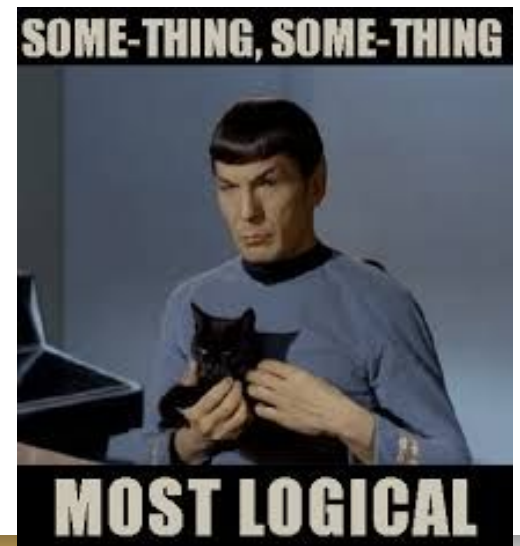
**Skim the questions. Then, read the passage with the intent of answering the questions. You do not have time to closely read everything.**



# Reading Strategies



- Re-read the lines mentioned in the question and try to find textual evidence.
- There may be more than one logical inference, but which one is **MOST** logical?





# Reading Strategy

## DIVIDE & CONQUER



# Science

*The ACT Science* test is a 40-question, 35-minute test that measures the interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problem-solving skills required in the natural sciences

**Interpretation of Data (45–55%), Scientific Investigation (20–30%), Evaluation of Models, Inferences, Experimental Results (25%-35%)**

# SCIENCE TIPS

- **Begin with the type of science you like best**
- **Read the passages and graphs/charts carefully**
- **Look at headings and subheadings, especially on charts**
- **Note different viewpoints in passages**



## More Resources

- [ACT Student Overview and Resources Activities](#)
- [ACT Resources for Preparation Sites \(many have free practice tests\)](#)
- [ACT Fact Sheet for Students](#)
- [ACT Presentation for Students](#)
- [ACT English Reminders Overview Sheet](#)
- [ACT English & Reading Reminders Presentation](#)
- [Video for ACT English & Reading Reminders Presentation](#)

**What Can I Do to Be  
Ready on the Day of the  
Assessment?**

# ACT Strategies



**Be rested and  
prepared for test day,  
March 5, 2024 (HHS)  
March 12, 2024 (JWT)**

# ACT Strategies



- **Get a good night's rest**
- **Eat a good breakfast**
- **Be present and on time**

# Pizza & Thank you



***Thank you for coming and let us know if you need more support!***