

Information about the ACT

The ACT is a standardized test used to measure a high school student's general academic progress and determine their ability to complete college-level work. It differs from the SAT in that it is an achievement test, measuring what a student has already learned, rather than an aptitude test. The questions on the ACT test the core curriculum of a typical high school career (English, reading, mathematics, and science).

What sections are on the ACT?	What skills are being assessed?	How long is this section?
English	The English test measures the student's understanding of the conventions of standard written English (punctuation, grammar and usage, and sentence structure) and of rhetorical skills (strategy, organization, and style). Spelling, vocabulary, and rote recall of rules of grammar are not tested. The test consists of five essays or passages which provide a variety of rhetorical situations. Questions are multiple-choice and may refer to whole passages, sections of a passage, or underlined portions of passages. Questions may ask the student to offer more appropriate alternatives ("NO CHANGE" may be a valid option).	75 questions in 45 minutes
Mathematics	The Mathematics test assesses the mathematical skills students have typically acquired in courses taken up to the beginning of 12 th grade. The test presents multiple-choice questions that require the student to use reasoning skills to solve practical problems in mathematics. While most questions are self-contained, some may belong to a set referring to a graph or chart presented. Knowledge of basic formulas and computational skills are assumed as background information, but recall of complex formulas and extensive computation is not required. The material covered emphasizes the major content areas that are prerequisites to successful performance in entry-level college mathematics courses.	60 questions in 60 minutes

Information about the ACT

What sections are on the ACT?	What skills are being assessed?	How long is this section?
Reading	The Reading test presents several texts and ask the student to derive meaning through referring to what is explicitly stated as well as reasoning to determine implicit meanings. The student must be able to determine main ideas; locate and interpret significant details; understand sequences of events; make comparisons; comprehend cause-effect relationships; determine the meaning of context-dependent words, phrases, and statements; draw generalizations; and analyze the author's or narrator's voice and method.	40 questions in 35 minutes
Science	The Science test presents several sets of scientific information as data (graphs, tables, etc.), research summaries (descriptions of several related experiments), or conflicting viewpoints (expressions of several related hypotheses or views that are inconsistent with one another). The student will need to be able to recognize and understand the basic features of, and concepts related to, the provided information; to examine critically the relationship between the information provided and the conclusions drawn or hypotheses developed; and to generalize from given information to gain new information, draw conclusions, or make predictions.	40 questions in 35 minutes
Writing (Optional)	The ACT writing test measures the writing skills emphasized in high school English classes and entry-level college composition courses. The test describes an issue and provides three different perspectives on the issue. The student is asked to evaluate and analyze the perspectives, state and develop their own perspective, and explain the relationship between their perspective and the ones given. Their score will not be affected by the perspective taken.	1 Essay in 40 minutes
Total Time		215 questions in 2 hours 55 minutes (plus 1 optional Essay in 40 minutes)

Information about the ACT

How is the ACT scored?

Each section of the ACT is scored on a scale of 1-36. In the four mandatory sections (English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science), the number of correct answers is converted into a score that ranges from 1-36. No points are deducted for wrong answers, so guessing is ok. The Composite score (the total score reported) is the average of the scores of these four sections rounded to the nearest whole number.

The Optional Writing section is reported separately and does not affect the Composite score. The scoring for this section is done by two trained readers who each score the essay from 1-6 in each of four domains of writing competencies (Ideas and Analysis, Development and Support, Organization, and Language Use and Conventions). Each domain score represents the sum of the two readers' scores, and are used to calculate the total Writing score.