

ACT Testing Fact Sheet: Things to know before you take the test!

General Information about the ACT Test

What does the ACT test?

- Measures the **knowledge, understanding and skills** that you have acquired throughout your education
- It is an **achievement test that is used to determine college admission**

Structure: What content am I being tested on?

- English (multiple choice questions)
- Mathematics (multiple choice questions) **Calculators are permitted. Go to ACT.org to see a list of acceptable calculators. Phone calculators are NOT allowed.**
- Reading (multiple choice questions)
- Science (multiple choice questions)
- Writing (essay)

“Each (multiple choice) test offers 4 or 5 answer choices from which you are to choose the correct, or best answer.”

Scoring:

- All 4 tests (excluding the Writing Test) are given scores from 1 to 36.
- The composite score is the average of the 4 tests.
- Composite scores accepted at different colleges:
 - University of Hawaii at Manoa: 22
 - Ivy League schools: 30 and above
 - Most other colleges: 20 and above

What should I do first?

- ❖ *Know the content of the ACT tests.*
- ❖ *Refresh your knowledge and skills in the content areas.*
- ❖ *Identify the content areas you have not studied and consider taking related courses.*

General Strategies for taking the ACT:

- Read directions carefully for each test!
 - English, reading and science test ask for the “best” answer.
 - Mathematics test ask for the “correct” answer.
- **Once you are familiar with the directions, don’t spend time on them—START TEST AS SOON AS YOU CAN.**
- Read each question carefully.
- Answer easy questions first.
- When you return to the more difficult questions, think logically to eliminate the obviously incorrect choices and look for clues to help you make an educated guess. Use POE (process of elimination).
- Answer every question / don’t leave blanks
 - If you are not sure about answer, skip it and go back later. (Tip: if you are guessing, choose the same letter for all of your guesses e.g.; mark C for all of your guesses.)
- Review your work.
- Fill in answers correctly and clearly: make sure answer ovals correspond to the right test question numbers. If you change answers, erase completely.