

The American College Testing (ACT) Exam

The ACT® college readiness assessment is a curriculum- and standards-based educational and career planning tool that assesses students' academic readiness for college.

The ACT is the capstone of our College and Career Readiness System. The test uses the same score scale as ACT Explore/ACT Plan and ACT Aspire, making the system an effective tool to monitor academic progress and student growth.

Official ACT website (www.act.org)

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

The ACT Plus Writing

The ACT Writing Test is a 40-minute essay test that measures your writing skills. The test consists of one writing prompt that will define an issue and describe two points of view on that issue. You are asked to respond to a question about your position on the issue described in the writing prompt. In doing so, you may adopt one or the other of the perspectives described in the prompt, or you may present a different point of view on the issue. Your score will not be affected by the point of view you take on the issue. Some colleges require the Writing Test; others do not. You should decide whether or not to take the Writing Test based on the requirements of the colleges you are applying to or considering.

English Test Description

The English test is a 75-question, 45-minute test, covering:

Usage/Mechanics

- punctuation
- grammar and usage
- sentence structure

Rhetorical Skills

- strategy
- organization
- style

Mathematics Test Description

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.

The test presents multiple-choice questions that require you to use reasoning skills to solve practical problems in mathematics.

You need knowledge of basic formulas and computational skills to answer the problems, but you are not required to know complex formulas and perform extensive computation.



TAKE NOTE You may use a calculator on the Mathematics Test. See [ACT's calculator policy](#) for details about permitted and prohibited calculators. If you use a prohibited calculator, you will be dismissed and your answer document will not be scored. You are not required to use a calculator. All of the mathematics problems can be solved without using a calculator.

Reading Test Description

The Reading Test is a 40-question, 35-minute test that measures your reading comprehension. You're asked to read several passages and answer questions that show your understanding of:

- what is directly stated
- statements with implied meanings

Specifically, you will use referring and reasoning skills 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
- analyze the author's or narrator's voice and method

The test comprises four sections, each containing one long or two shorter prose passages that are representative of the level and type of reading required in first-year college courses.

Passages on topics in social studies, natural sciences, literary narrative (including prose fiction), and the humanities are included.



TAKE
NOTE

Each passage is accompanied by a set of multiple-choice test questions. In sections that contain two short passages, some of the questions involve both of the passages in the section. These questions do not test the rote recall of facts from outside the passage, isolated vocabulary items, or rules of formal logic. Instead, the test focuses on the complementary and supportive skills that readers must use in studying written materials across a range of subject areas.

Science Test Description

The 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.

You are not permitted to use a calculator on the Science Test.



TAKE
NOTE

The test assumes that students are in the process of taking the core science course of study (three years or more) that will prepare them for college-level work and have completed a course in Earth science and/or physical science and a course in biology.

The test presents several sets of scientific information, each followed by a number of multiple-choice test questions. The scientific information is conveyed in one of three different formats:

- data representation (graphs, tables, and other schematic forms)
- research summaries (descriptions of several related experiments)
- conflicting viewpoints (expressions of several related hypotheses or views that are inconsistent with one another)

The questions require you to:

- recognize and understand the basic features of, and concepts related to, the provided information
- examine critically the relationship between the information provided and the conclusions drawn or hypotheses developed
- generalize from given information to gain new information, draw conclusions, or make predictions

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