

ACT Test Taking Tips

- Access practice tests BEFORE the test day by visiting the [ACT website](#) (scroll to the bottom of the page and select free online practice)
- Answer ALL questions within each section's allotted time!
- Work questions in order – ask yourself if a question is a **Do Now**, **Later**, or **Last**. Answer easiest questions first.
- Eliminate wrong answers first – this may help you find the right answer
- Some students choose to circle answers in the book first and then go back to fill in answer sheet – If you choose this method, do one page at a time so you are less likely to run out of time to fill in the answer sheet.
- Remember math questions get harder as you progress through the test, so work faster at the beginning
- If you know shortcuts for math questions, use them! You are not required to show your work on the test
- 4 C's in good writing: **complete** sentences, **consistent**, **clear**, and **concise**.
- **Don't Panic** if you do not complete a section. The ACT was designed so that most students will not complete each sections (specifically the Reading and Science sections) – that is why you are encouraged to fill in any blank circles within the last couple of minutes. **Stay Calm** and move to the next section when instructed.
- Because this is a timed test, have a game plan to **manage your time**. You cannot move through questions as slowly and carefully as you would on a typical test. Pace yourself. **For example, you might estimate: English 9 - minutes/passages; Math - faster at the beginning; Reading - 8:45 minutes/passages; Science - about 5 minutes/passages.**
- Get a good night's rest the day before the test
- Eat a good breakfast
- Do Not try to cram for the test the morning of your exam. This could increase your anxiety
- Ask any questions you might have about the ACT **BEFORE** test day. Review [ACT Test Prep](#) guide for things you need to know to prep for test day