

# Summary of ACT Test for Facilitators

## Big Question:

Really, what is the ACT Test? What are its parts and how long does the test take?

The ACT (originally an abbreviation of American College Testing) is a standardized test used for college admissions in the United States. It is currently administered by [ACT](#), a nonprofit organization of the same name. The ACT test covers four academic skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning. These four tests are presented in multiple choice answer form. The ACT is accepted by all four-year colleges and universities in the United States as well as more than 225 universities outside of the U.S.

The main four ACT test sections are individually scored on a scale of 1–36, and a composite score (the rounded whole number average of the four sections) is provided.

**The ACT English Test** is designed to measure your ability to understand and interpret Standard Written English. Each English test includes 5 passages with 15 questions each, for a total of 75 multiple-choice questions. The passages cover a variety of subjects, ranging from historical discussions to personal narratives. The questions are divided into two main categories: Usage/ Mechanics questions and Rhetorical Skills questions. Usage/Mechanics questions test your basic English usage and grammar skills, while Rhetorical Skills questions test your ability to express an idea clearly and concisely.

**The ACT Mathematics Test** is designed to test your ability to reason mathematically, to understand basic mathematical terminology, and to recall basic mathematical formulas and principles. You will have 60 minutes to complete the ACT Mathematics Test. You should be able to solve problems and apply relevant mathematics concepts in the following areas:

- Prealgebra
- Elementary Algebra
- Intermediate Algebra
- Coordinate Geometry
- Plane Geometry
- Trigonometry



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**In the ACT reading section**, there will be four reading passages of about 800 words each—the average length of a People magazine article but maybe not as interesting. There is always one prose fiction passage, one social science passage, one humanities passage, and one natural science passage, and they are always in that order. There are 10 questions in each passage. You should answer all the reading questions in 35 minutes.

**The ACT Science Test** measures the interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problem-solving skills that apply to the study of the natural sciences. The questions require you to recognize and understand the basic concepts related to the information contained within the passages, critically examine the hypotheses developed, and generalize from given information to draw conclusions or make predictions. The ACT Science Test includes several passages, each followed by four to seven multiple-choice questions, for a total of 40 questions. You will have 35 minutes to complete the ACT Science Test. The content areas found in the passages are Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Sciences.

Section	Total Time	Start Time	End Time
English	45 min	8:30	9:15
Math	60 min	9:15	10:15
Break	10 min	10:15	10:25
Reading	35 min	10:25	11:00
Science	35 min	11:00	11:35
Break (some students leave)	5 min	11:35	11:40
Optional essay	40 min	11:40	12:20
<b>Total</b>	<b>230 min</b>		

