

ACT General Strategies

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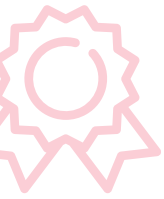
VISION

To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens



MISSION

To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community



1

ALL Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas



2

EVERY Student Graduates from High School and is Ready for College and Career



3

EVERY Child Has Access to a High-Quality Early Childhood Program

EVERY School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders

4



EVERY Community Effectively Uses a World-Class Data System to Improve Student Outcomes

5



EVERY School and District is Rated “C” or Higher

6



- Now that you understand some of the basics of the ACT, it's time to start discussing basic test taking strategies.
- Test taking strategies should help you to achieve a higher score.
- It is important that you understand each of the strategies provided.
- It is even more important that you attempt some of these strategies ... practice makes perfect.
- You might also want to try out different strategies to find which ones work best for you.

- Most hospital emergency rooms have something called a triage nurse. This is the person who evaluates each patient when they enter the hospital. Then, this nurse decides where they need to go or which ones get medical attention first (you wouldn't expect someone with a cold to see the doctor before the one that's missing a limb).
- You should act like a triage nurse when determining which questions to answer first. Because this is a timed test and the only answers that count are the correct ones, you should determine whether a question is of easy, medium, or high difficulty. Here are the steps:
 - If the question looks understandable and of reasonable difficulty, answer the question immediately.
 - If it looks tough and time consuming, but ultimately doable, skip it, mark it, and come back.
 - If the question looks impossible, forget about it. Guess and move on.

- Often, the ACT questions are worded so that they appear more difficult than they are. This is especially true of word problems and English questions.
- It is important to learn to recast (or reword) questions that appear too difficult.
- Putting things into your own words will help you further understand the content being tested as well as increase the number of correct answers on your ACT.

- This strategy is useful on all four tests on the ACT.
- There are different ways to do it based on which test you are taking, but it is basically marking up the passage.
- The test booklet is yours to write all over. Please do this. It is one of the few free resources that they ACT will give you.
- Marking up your test booklet will save time when you have to refer to a passage or some step in your math equation.
- Saving time in this way will allow you to attempt more questions.

- Particularly useful on the reading section, implementing the process of elimination is a very successful strategy for all standardized tests.
- Every question on the ACT has only one right answer.
- For tougher questions, it is far easier to identify answers that are incorrect than trying to find the one correct answer.
- Even the smallest details matter. Mark through answers that are irrelevant, lack evidence, claim the opposite, miss ordered, require interpretation,

- Some find it faster to save all the bubbling of answers until the end.
- This can save time between questions by eliminating the process of going back and forth between the test booklet and the answer sheet.
- This requires practice so that enough time remains at the end to fill in the bubbles (typically 3-5 minutes).

- Because points are awarded only for correct answers and no points are deducted for incorrect answers, it is vital to fill in every bubble on the answer sheet.
- While guessing is not successful on most standardized tests, guessing receives no penalty on the ACT.
- When the test proctor announces that only 5 minutes remain for a section, fill in the remaining bubbles on the answer sheet shortly after that.

Overview

- Try some of these that sound helpful
- If it doesn't help ... don't use it
- The more tactics you try to more you find that will help raise your test score



Don't Miss the Test

- Double check that you are registered prior to the testing date
- Make sure you know where and when you will be taking the test



Track Your Data

- Keep up with your scores (even practice tests)
- Keep up with the time you spend on each section, passage, problem type (math), etc.
- Create your own system to track the data from your test practice
- This will help determine where your strengths are, what new strategies are working, which sections/types of problems you struggle with



Manage Your Time

- While your testing room should have a digital clock in the room, bring your own watch to help you keep up with how much time you have remaining
- Remember to make sure the sound/alarms are not on during the test ... you could be asked to leave the testing room



Marking Your Answer Document

- Only mark the bubbles once you have finished a given section of the ACT
- Some find this helps save time
- Wait until the test proctor announces five minutes remaining then fill in your answer document
- Guess on the ones you haven't finished



Guessing

- You get points for correct answers and are not penalized for incorrect answers
- Never leave an answer blank
- If you don't know the answer, take your best guess
- Choose the same letter choice for each guess you take (many believe this helps your chances of getting more questions correct)



Fuel Your Body and Mind

- Get all the sleep you need the night before
- Eat a good breakfast
- Bring a snack for breaks
- Your brain will function better and you will score higher if you practice these tactics
- Dress comfortably (but mind the dress code)
- Take deep breathes to stay calm





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