

ACT Introduction

mdek12.org



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION



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



- **While you may have heard that the ACT is an incredibly difficult exam, you may not know how easy it can be. Even though the rumors of the test's difficulty are true, there are ways to beat the test ... it's just like a game except you don't win prizes ...**
- **Oh wait, you win prizes. The ACT is the basic entrance exams for most colleges within the state. There is a great deal of money involved here ... so take this seriously!**

- **The ACT isn't a normal exam that tests your memory of content that your teachers have taught.**
- **Essential problem-solving skills are necessary to perform well on the ACT.**
- **Most content on the test is basic. You should have learned most of the information in your high school classes.**
- **Because we know what basic concepts will be tested we will follow three main steps:**
 - Learn the test format
 - Learn the strategies
 - Learn the concepts tested

- Your ACT score isn't just the sum total of correct answers.
- Your correct answers are added up (notice that your incorrect answers are not factored into the equation) to get a “raw” score.
- This number is run through a “scoring formula.”
- This is your “scaled” score.
- The reason for doing this is because not two tests are created equally so the test makers must scale the score in order to validate all of the scores.
- You also receive a composite score as well as individual subject scores.

- **Can I combine two separate ACT to get a better score?**
 - Each test stands on its own. However, some institutions will also for what is called a “super score.” Allowing some to combine scores from multiple test attempts. It’s best to check with the institutions you are applying to in order to effectively take the test.
- **What scores are reported if I take the test more than once?**
- That will be up to you. If you score a 28 the first time you take it but you score a 25 the next time ... don’t send the 25 to schools. Usually schools are concerned with your highest score.

- **Colleges where you send your score will pay admissions officers to review your score (along with many other things) in order to determine whether you can be accepted to their institution as well as how much scholarship money you will be rewarded.**
- **Be realistic though. Remember that this score is not the only thing that determines whether you will get into a school. Extra-curricular activities, high school grades, and many other things factor into whether a school will have you ...**
- **It's best to research schools to understand what they want from you.**

- **Luckily, the format for the ACT never changes. This means you can plan how you want to attack the test.**
- **Also, the test focus on the same types of information most of the time.**
- **There are 4 main tests on the ACT:**
 - English (45 minutes; 75 questions) a little over half a minute per question
 - Math (60 minutes; 60 questions) - 1 minute per question
 - Reading (35 minutes; 40 questions) about 7 minutes per question
 - Science (35 minutes; 40 questions) about 7 minutes per question
- **That's nearly three hours! Do you get a break? Between the Math and the Reading portions. Students are often given a 10 minute break.**



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