

"TO SUCCEED,
WE MUST FIRST
BELIEVE
THAT WE CAN."

--MICHAEL KORDA

Question

- ▶ How many points on the ACT do you think make the difference between a student being accepted or rejected from a certain university?



Answer

- ▶ The Wall Street Journal found that 1-2 composite points is all it takes to differentiate certain students from your competition.



Test Prep For Teachers and Staff



Jack Friedman
Study Smart Tutors Inc
Teacher Training Workshop



Question

What is the biggest mistake teachers and staff make when trying to prepare students for exams like the ACT?



Answer

- ▶ Teachers start with the wrong goals!
- ▶ The goal of ACT prep is for students to get test questions correct as quickly as possible
- ▶ Tests like the ACT don't ask "How"



Other Common Teacher Mistakes

- ▶ Too much time spent in math section
- ▶ Students don't learn “easy way” to solve problems
- ▶ Too much time is spent having students memorize



Chalk Talk

- ▶ What will your role be in helping students prepare for the ACT?
 - ▶ How will you make this happen?
- ▶ What are the biggest perceived obstacles
 - ▶ How do you overcome them?
 - ▶ How can we help?





**Test Prep
is Hard!**

Turn and Talk

What are some different ways that test prep can be implemented?



Goals for Today

- ▶ Provide materials for teachers and staff
- ▶ Demonstrate how to use teacher/student editions
- ▶ Explain formatting of workbooks
- ▶ Overview key ACT methods (with practice)
 - ▶ ACT Intro
 - ▶ ACT Reading Strategy
 - ▶ Avoiding Algebra on the ACT
 - ▶ Geometry Logic
 - ▶ ACT Science
 - ▶ ACT English



What Staff Members are Receiving

- ▶ Student Workbook
- ▶ Teachers' Workbook
- ▶ Test Prep FAQ's for Teachers
- ▶ PowerPoint Lessons (intro, math, reading, English, science and writing)
- ▶ ACT Practice Tests (3, with segmentations)
 - ▶ Practice tests are actual ACT exams
 - ▶ Segmentations coordinate our lessons with the released exams



Student Books are “skeletons”

- ▶ Much of student workbooks are blank
- ▶ Not a “sit and listen” workbook
- ▶ Not a “read and learn” workbook
- ▶ Goal is for students to take active part in learning, and then have something to study from



Workbooks Segmented into “Mini-Lessons”

- ▶ Idea similar to “SAT question of the day” on College Board’s website
- ▶ Formatted to act as “ACT strategy of the day”
- ▶ Can serve as a short warm-up for class
- ▶ Each lesson is 5-20 minutes long
- ▶ Some lessons are more “key” than others



Teachers' Workbooks

- ▶ Teacher workbooks include sidebars on each page for lesson notes
- ▶ Teacher workbooks are “filled in”
- ▶ PowerPoint slides accompany each section
- ▶ Include “ACT FAQ’s for teachers” in each section
- ▶ Each section includes segmentation of released ACT exams (for classwork or homework)



Tests to take and when to take them

1. **EXPLORE**- pre-ACT for 8th and 9th graders
2. **PLAN**-pre-ACT for 10th graders
3. **PSAT**-pre-SAT, qualifier for national merit for 11th graders
4. **ACT**-college entrance exam which tests students in reading, writing, math, and science, accepted by all colleges
5. **SAT**-college entrance exam which tests students in reading, writing, and math, accepted by all colleges



Test Plan By Grade

- ▶ 8th/9th Grade-PSAT prep, EXPLORE
- ▶ 10th Grade-Take PSAT and/or PLAN
- ▶ 11th Grade-Take PSAT in October, SAT and ACT in spring, take SAT subject tests in June
- ▶ 12th Grade-Take SAT/ACT in Oct, Nov, Dec if needed



Important Things to Know

- ▶ All colleges will accept both SAT and ACT scores
- ▶ Almost all students should take the “optional” writing section
- ▶ Many colleges “super score” multiple ACT scores, but some DO NOT



	<u>ACT</u>	<u>SAT</u>
Length	3 hours 25 minutes	3 hours 45 minutes
Sections	4 Sections (+1 optional essay)	10 Sections
Areas Tested	English, Math, Science (Optional Writing) Reading	Critical Reading, Writing, Math
Reading Comparison	4 Passages, 10 questions per passage	9 passages, as well as sentence completions
Science Comparison	Science Reasoning (READING COMP)	No science
Math Comparison	¼ of overall score, Includes trigonometry	1/3 of overall score, no trigonometry
Essay Comparison	Optional, last section, 30 min	First thing, 25 min
Scoring	1-36, 21 is national average	200-800 ,1500 is average
Guessing Penalty	None	-¼ for each incorrect answer
How to Prepare	content is difficult but straightforward	Content is not hard, very tricky
Great for students who are...	Good writers, strong readers, “book-smart”, students who have a strong foundation in each subject	Students who are “street-smart,” who, who can understand tricks



Setting Goals

**“I want to do well
on the ACT”**



ACT PREP GOALS

- ▶ The ACT Prep Goals Worksheet hopefully allows your students to go through the following progression
- 1. What schools do I want to go to?
- 2. What ACT scores do those schools typically require?
- 3. ***How many questions do I need to answer correctly in each section?***



ACT PREP GOALS

University of Texas

Average ACT Composite = 25

Math, Reading, English, Science

Math Raw = 40, Reading Raw = 27



Scaled Score	English (75 questions)	Math (60 questions)	Reading (40 questions)	Science (40 questions)
36	75	60	40	40
35	73-74	59	39	39
34	71-72	58	38	-
33	70	56-57	37	38
32	69	55	36	37
31	67-68	54	35	-
30	66	52-53	34	36
29	65	50-51	32-33	35
28	63-64	48-49	31	33-34
27	62	45-47	30	32
26	60-61	42-44	29	30-31
25	58-59	40-41	27-28	28-29
24	56-57	37-39	26	26-27
23	54-55	35-36	24-25	25
22	52-53	33-34	23	23-24
21	49-51	31-32	22	21-22
20	46-48	29-30	20-21	19-20
19	43-45	26-28	19	18
18	41-42	24-25	18	16-17
17	39-40	21-23	16-17	15
16	36-38	17-20	15	14
15	33-35	14-16	14	13
14	30-32	11-13	12-13	12
13	28-29	9-10	11	11
12	26-27	7-8	9-10	10
11	24-25	6	8	9
10	22-23	5	6-7	7-8
9	20-21	4	-	6
8	17-19	3	5	5
7	14-16	-	4	4
6	11-13	2	3	3
▶ 5	8-10	-	-	-

Average
ACT
scores are
only
slightly
better than
50%
correct!

How is the ACT Scored?

The ACT is not scored in the same way that most tests.

For every question you answer correctly you will receive 1 raw point.

There is NO PENALTY for answering questions incorrectly.

NEVER LEAVE ACT QUESTIONS BLANK!

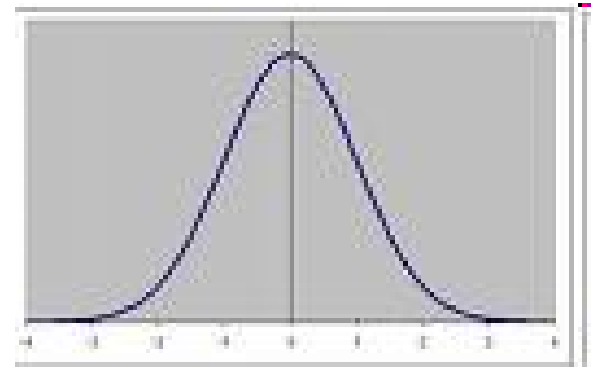


How is the ACT scored?

Each subject area of the test, math, reading and writing, is scored on a scale between 1 and 36.

The four sub-scores are then averaged for a total score of between 1 and 36.

The ACT is graded on a curve and each section is scaled so that the average score is approximately 21.



Converting Scaled Scores to # Correct

Raw= (# correct)

No Guessing Penalty

40 Math Raw= 40 correct out of 60

$40/60 = 67\%$ or D in HS Class



Scaled vs. Raw Scores

- ▶ Raw scores are what you want students to worry about
- ▶ Scaled scores are the scores out 36 that colleges will look at
- ▶ ***Once you figure out what scaled scores you will need to reach your goals, then you'll be able to see what raw score you'll need to get there!***



Which of the following is true about the ACT?

- (A) The ACT measures with certainty how well you will do in life. It perfectly predicts your ability to succeed in high school and college classes as well as your activities outside the classroom.
- (B) The “A” in ACT stands for Aptitude because it measures your “intellectual aptitude” otherwise known as your intelligence.
- (C) The “A” in ACT stands for “Achievement” because it measures how much you have “achieved” or learned during your life as a student to this point.
- (D) The ACT tests your knowledge of the ACT.



What's on the ACT?

ACT Questions include:

1. **Math** -(Algebra I and II, Geometry, Fundamentals)
2. **Reading** -(Reading Comprehension)
3. **English** -(Grammar, Usage, Rhetoric, Mechanics)
4. **Science**-(Data Analysis, Interpretation, Reasoning, Problem-Solving)



Who writes the ACT?

You may think that a bunch of college presidents get together each year to write the ACT

Just because they are the ones who use the test doesn't mean that they write it!

The ACT is written by ACT Inc, who also write many other standardized tests, such as the EXPLORE, PLAN, and COMPASS Test



When is the ACT Offered?

The 2011-2012 test dates and registration deadlines can be found by visiting ACT's website

ACT Exams Offered in...

1. September
 2. October
 3. December
 4. February
 5. April
 6. June
-



Section	# questions	Time	ACT College Readiness Benchmark
<i>English</i>	75	45	18
<i>Math</i>	60	60	22
<i>Reading</i>	40	35	21
<i>Science</i>	40	35	24
<i>Optional Writing Test</i>	1 essay	30	

English Test (test #1)

1. 45 Min for 75 Questions
2. 5 essays on the left side of the page, words/phrases underlined
3. These questions will test you on grammar, punctuation, structure, rhetoric, as well as style and organization



Math Test (test #2)

- ▶ 60 Minutes for 60 Questions
- ▶ Not exactly in order of difficulty, but easy questions tend to come at the beginning and hard questions tend to come at the end
- ▶ Questions include pre-algebra, algebra, plane/coordinate geometry, and a little bit of trig



Reading Test (test #3)

- ▶ 35 Min for 40 Questions
- ▶ 4 Total Passages
 - ▶ 1 Natural Science
 - ▶ 1 Humanities
 - ▶ 1 Social Sciences
 - ▶ 1 Prose Fiction

Each Passage will have 10 questions



Science Test (Test #4)

- ▶ 35 Min for 40 Questions
- ▶ No specific science knowledge required
- ▶ 7 total passages, which will test your ability to interpret graphs, charts, experiments, etc...

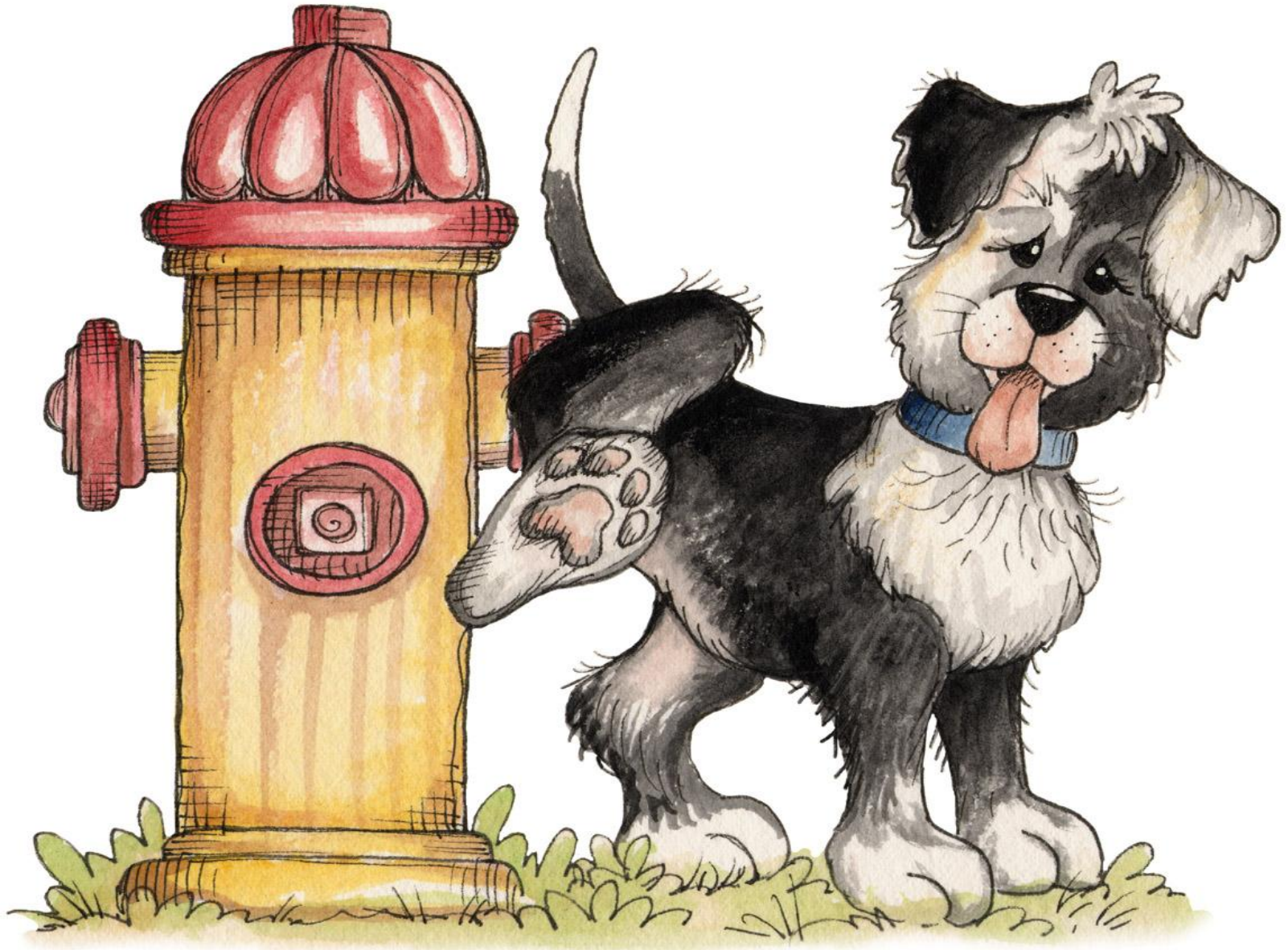


Writing Test (“Optional”)

- ▶ One Prompt, 30 Minutes
- ▶ You will be asked for your opinion
- ▶ Two graders score from 1-6 each, total out of 12



The Test Booklet:



Process of Elimination:

Every multiple choice question on the ACT has **three or four wrong answers and only one correct answer.**

By looking for the wrong answers instead of the correct ones, you will often be left with just a few answer choices to make an educated guess from.



Be Quick But Don't Hurry

On the ACT, **every question is worth the same amount.**

How does this help you?



1. Don't spend too much time on any one question
2. Don't rush through problems that you know how to do



Order of Difficulty?

- ▶ ACT questions DO NOT follow a specific order of difficulty
- ▶ In general, easy math questions come at the beginning
- ▶ In science and reading, the more difficult passages tend to come at the end

WE WANT TO FIND/ANSWER EASY QUESTIONS FIRST!



Easy vs. Medium vs. Hard

- ▶ Imagine it's your job to write ACT questions...
- ▶ Think about the goal of each category of question (easy, medium, difficult)
- ▶ Think about the type of student that is supposed to get easy questions correct vs. the type of student who is supposed to get hard questions correct



What type of student do the
ACT writers want to get
difficult questions correct?



Things to Remember

EASY questions have EASY answers...trust your hunches

MEDIUM questions have MEDIUM answers...be careful of your hunches

DIFFICULT questions have DIFFICULT answers...don't trust your hunches



Here is a “Difficult” Math Question...

35. Cindy walked to work at an average speed of 6 miles an hour and biked back along the same route at 10 miles per hour. If her total traveling time was 2 hours, how many miles is it from her house to work?

- A. 6
- B. 6.25
- C. 7.5
- D. 8
- E. 10



Put ACT Questions in Three Categories

1. Do Now
2. Do Later
3. Do Never (guess and move on)



Guessing and POE

- ▶ There is NO GUESSING PENALTY on the ACT
- ▶ You MUST fill in ALL 215 ACT Questions
- ▶ Make educated and logical guesses whenever possible



Guessing Blindly

- ▶ Occasionally, you'll have to take a random guess
- ▶ When this happens, you want to put yourself in the best possible position to succeed



Letter of the Day

- ▶ On questions where you will be making a random guess, always choose the same letter
- ▶ This will increase your chances of at least getting some of these questions correct
- ▶ Only use this strategy when you cannot use POE to eliminate any answers





Teaching ACT Math

- ▶ Focus on techniques and strategies that will help students think about many problems
- ▶ Don't focus on areas that help students solve one problem
- ▶ ACT math fundamentals section of workbook great for 9th grade students



Table Talk

- ▶ How can you teach your students to have confidence in ACT math without being a math expert?
- ▶ How can this dovetail with other skills being taught in your classrooms?



ACT Math Quick Facts:

1. 60 minutes to answer 60 questions
2. Questions in the math section contain 5 answer choices.
3. Many easy questions will be at the beginning, and many difficult questions will come towards the end.
4. You WILL NOT be provided with any formulas.



NO EXCUSES

**For being surprised
by what's on the ACT Math Test**

ACT Math Breakdown

33 Algebra Questions

1. 14 Pre-Algebra

2. 10 Algebra I

3. 9 Algebra II



ACT Math Breakdown

23 Geometry Questions

1. 14 Plane Geometry Questions

2. 9 Coordinate Geometry Questions



ACT Math Breakdown

4 Trig Questions

1. 4 trig questions based on sine, cosine, tangent, trig identities, etc...



ACT Math Tips

Make two passes through the questions...

1. On the first pass, answer all the ones that you know how to solve and guess on all the ones that you have no idea how to solve.

2. Save the questions that you could solve with a little more thought for the end.



ACT Math Tips

1. Use your “logic brain” to eliminate illogical answers
2. Take each question in bite-sized chunks
3. Avoid falling for traps (partial answers, simple math on difficult questions)
4. Understand, that on certain problems, you will be given extra information that is not needed



AVOIDING ALGEBRA ON ACT MATH



Avoiding Algebra Tactics:

- ❖ Plug-In Your Number
- ❖ Plug in the Given Answer Choices

What's so great about these tactics anyway?

These tactics allow us to avoid ALGEBRA!



BEST MATH TACTIC EVER #1

PLUGGING IN Your Own Numbers!

When do I Plug-In?

Look for variables in the problem and the answer choices.

Step 1 :

Plug in your own numbers for each variable. Make sure to write them down

Step 2:

Solve the problem using your numbers.

Step 3:

Write down your answer and circle it. This is your TARGET.

Step 4:

Plug in your chosen number into the answer choices. Make sure to check them all. The choice that matches your target is the correct answer.

Plugging-In Tips:

- 1. Watch out for Zero and One:**
- 2. Don't use the same number for multiple variables**
- 3. Remember to check all your answers before moving on**
- 4. Pick "Good" Numbers**
- 5. Mark your test book with the numbers you choose**



Example:

13. If a store sells a shirt for h dollars, how much would that shirt cost if it was marked down by $q\%$

- A. hq***
- B. $1/4hq$***
- C. $h(1-(q/100))$***
- D. $q(1-(h/100))$***
- E. $2hq$***



Try Another:

13. If w hats cost z dollars, then how many hats could you buy with \$100?

- A. $100/w$***
- B. $100wz$***
- C. $100w/z$***
- D. $100z/w$***
- E. wz***



Example:

16. If the sum of three consecutive odd integers is p , then in terms of p , what is the greatest of the three integers?

A. $(p-6)/3$

B. $(p-3)/3$

C. $p/3$

D. $(p+3)/3$

E. $(p+6)/3$



BEST MATH TACTIC EVER #2

PLUG IN THE ANSWER Choices!

Plugging in the answer choices allows us to work the problem backwards

When Can I Plug in the Answer Choices?

When there are numbers in the answer choices or you feel the strong urge to write out a long algebraic expression! (Ex: age problems)



Steps to Plugging in the Answer Choices:

Step 1

Label the answers so you know what they mean

Step 2

Start with choice (C) and work the steps of the problem backwards

Step 3

Look for something in the problem to know if you are correct.

Step 4

If you find the correct answer, STOP! Move on to the next problem!

Example:

11. Marc is half as old as Tony and three times as old as Ben. If the sum of their ages is 40, how old is Marc?

A. 3

B. 6

C. 12

D. 18

E. 24



Plane Geometry



Plane Geometry Facts

Use logic when solving geometry problems

Most shapes will be drawn to scale. Use your eyes to eliminate impossible answer choices

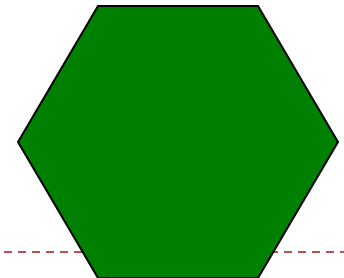
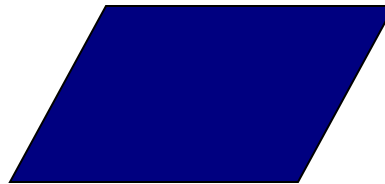
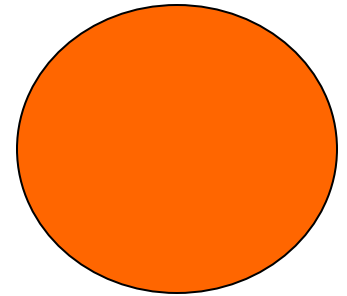
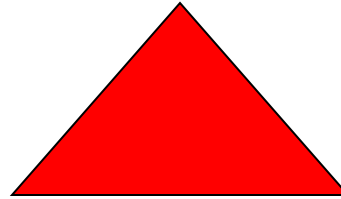
When a diagram is not given or is not drawn to scale, redraw it

Fill in any missing info in the figure before solving the problem



Plane Geometry Problems Include

- **Triangles**
- **Circles**
- **Four-Sided Figures**
- **Weird Shapes**

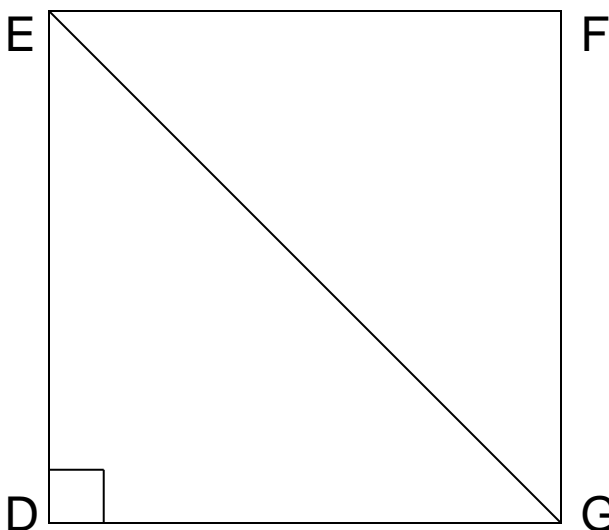


Using Logic to Solve Geometry Problems:

What should you do when you see a weird shape on a difficult geometry problem?

Use the logic side of your brain to eliminate answers that don't meet your "eyeball test."





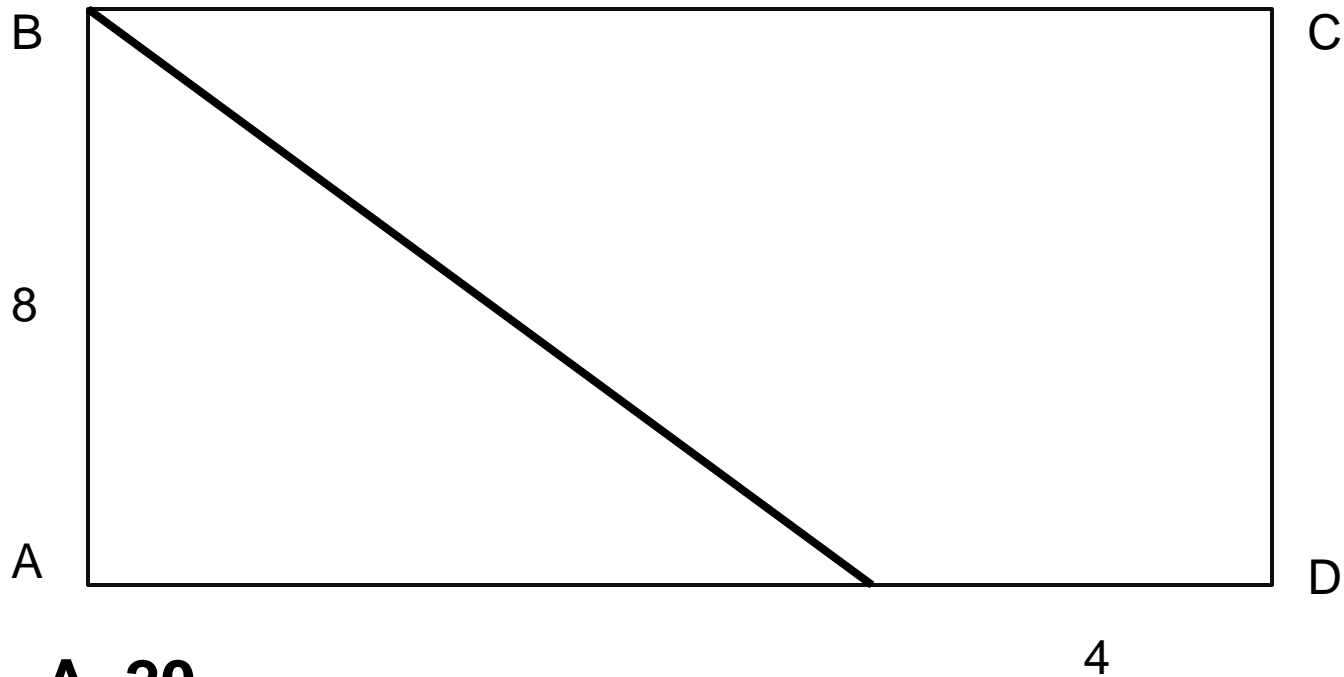
13. Figure DEFG is a square. If $EG = 4$, what is the area of the square?

- A. 4
- B. $4\sqrt{2}$
- C. 8
- D. 16
- E. 32

How can you use
your “logic brain” to
solve this?

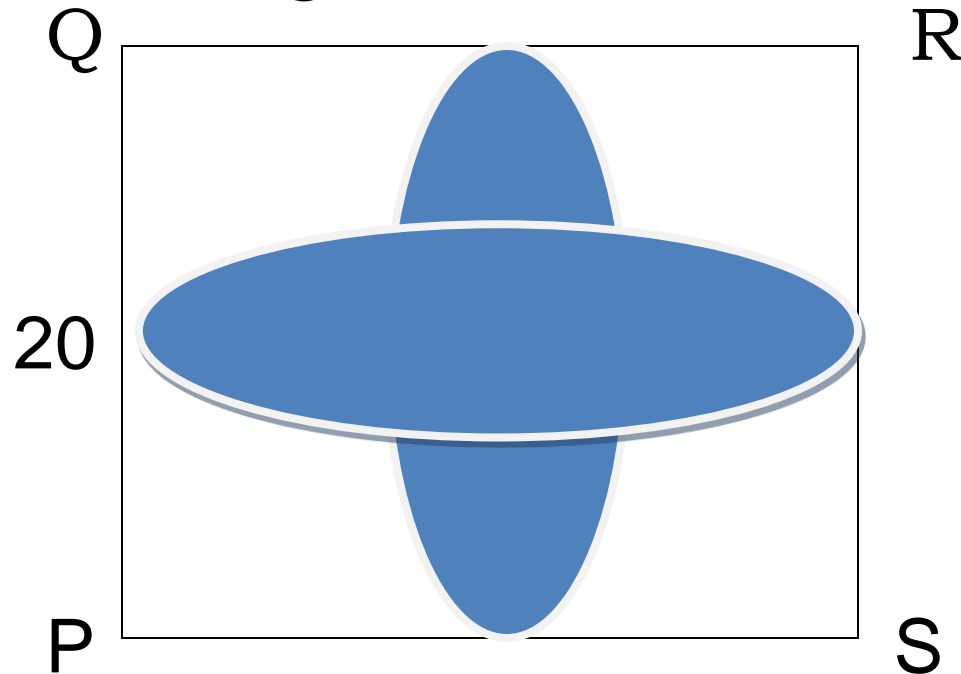


14. In the picture below, ABCD is a rectangle. If the area of triangle ABE is 40, what is the area of the rectangle?



- A. 20**
- B. 40**
- C. 48**
- D. 80**
- E. 112**

20. If the figure PQRS above is a square, what is the area of the shaded region?



- A. 20π**
- B. $40(\pi - 2)$**
- C. $200(\pi - 2)$**
- D. 100π**
- E. 400π**



Jack came to the test-prep training this morning with wet hair.

What can be inferred from the preceding statement?



Reading vs. *Reading*

Think about the difference between ACT reading comprehension and reading in English classes

On the ACT, you NEVER need to remember what you read!

Remember, you only get points for **answering** questions, not **understanding** the passage!



Common SAT Reading Mistakes

Most students spend **TOO** much time on the passage and **NOT ENOUGH** time on the questions

Students make mistakes because they don't understand what the questions really ask

Students choose answers that do not have **DIRECT SUPPORT** from the passage



ACTIVE READING	PASSIVE READING
<i>You turn your brain on before reading</i>	Brain is off during reading
<u>Great for:</u> School reading, research, the SAT/ACT/PSAT/AP Tests	<u>Great for:</u> Magazines, Harry Potter books, brochures, etc
<i>You think critically about the author/characters while reading</i>	You simply read/skim to understand the main point
<i>You underline key aspects and make notes as you read</i>	You simply lie on the couch and flip the pages

ACT Reading Format

1. 4 Passages
2. 40 Questions
3. 35 Minutes

This test is designed so that time is an issue!



The Four Types of Passages

1. Prose Fiction
2. Social Sciences
3. Humanities
4. Natural Science



ACT Reading Basic Strategy

1. Take the passages in the best order for you
2. Learn how to find trap answers
3. Use POE to eliminate trap answers
4. Spend time understanding the questions, rather than understanding the passage
5. **COVER THE ANSWERS AND PREDICT WHENEVER POSSIBLE**



Natural Science, Social Science, and Humanities Passages

The key to solving all three of these types of passages is to find the author's ***KEY ARGUMENT!***



Part I: Understanding Key Arguments

Step I:

Read the blurb

“The Blurb”

“The following passage was adapted from an article published in the New York Herald around 1870. The article discusses the sport of baseball, which was just becoming popular at the time.”



Part I: Understanding Key Arguments

Step 2:

Skim the passage. Find the THESIS and underline it (one minute)

- ▶ **What is the author's key argument in this passage?**
- ▶ **What lines did you find the thesis and other key argumentative statements?**



Part II: Types of Questions and How to Answer Them

Step 3:

Answer the questions in specific to general order

Step 4:

Refer back to the passage



Ordering Passage Questions

Question Type

Question Type

Easy, Most Specific

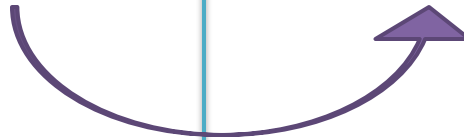
Hard, most general

1-Word

1-sentence

1-Paragraph

Whole Passage



Comprehension Questions

Ask about what passage says/means

Reasoning questions

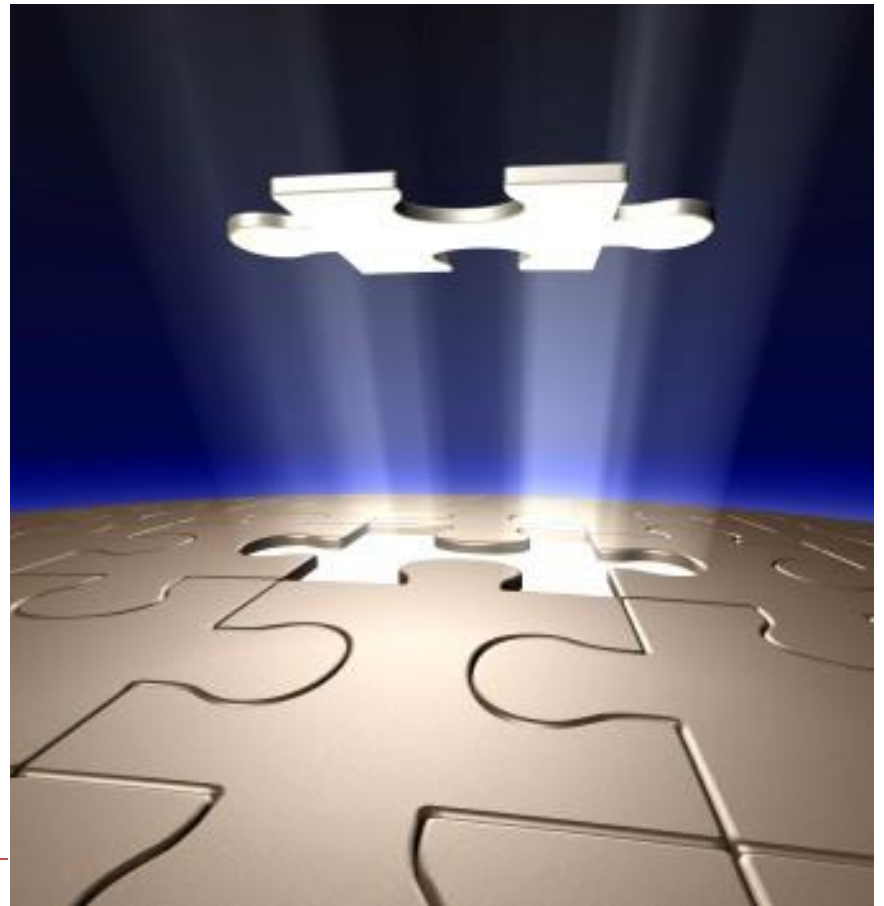
Ask about author, author's argument
Often use words like "Implies" "suggest,"
"infer"

Easy Questions	Hard Questions
Ask about the passage	Ask about the author
Usually specific	Usually not specific
Can be done quickly (do these 1 st)	Take a bit more time (do these 2 nd)
Questions include “Vocab in context, line reference, and lead phrase”	Questions include “author’s argument, tone, main point, etc...”
Worth one point	Worth one point

Correct Answer Puzzle-Fit

The ACT uses these passages to test your ability to identify and comprehend a FEW key sentences in the passage.

Then, all of the **REASONING** questions surround these few ideas.



Part III: Don't Let the ACT Guide Your Brain

Step 5:

Answer the questions in your own words

Step 6:

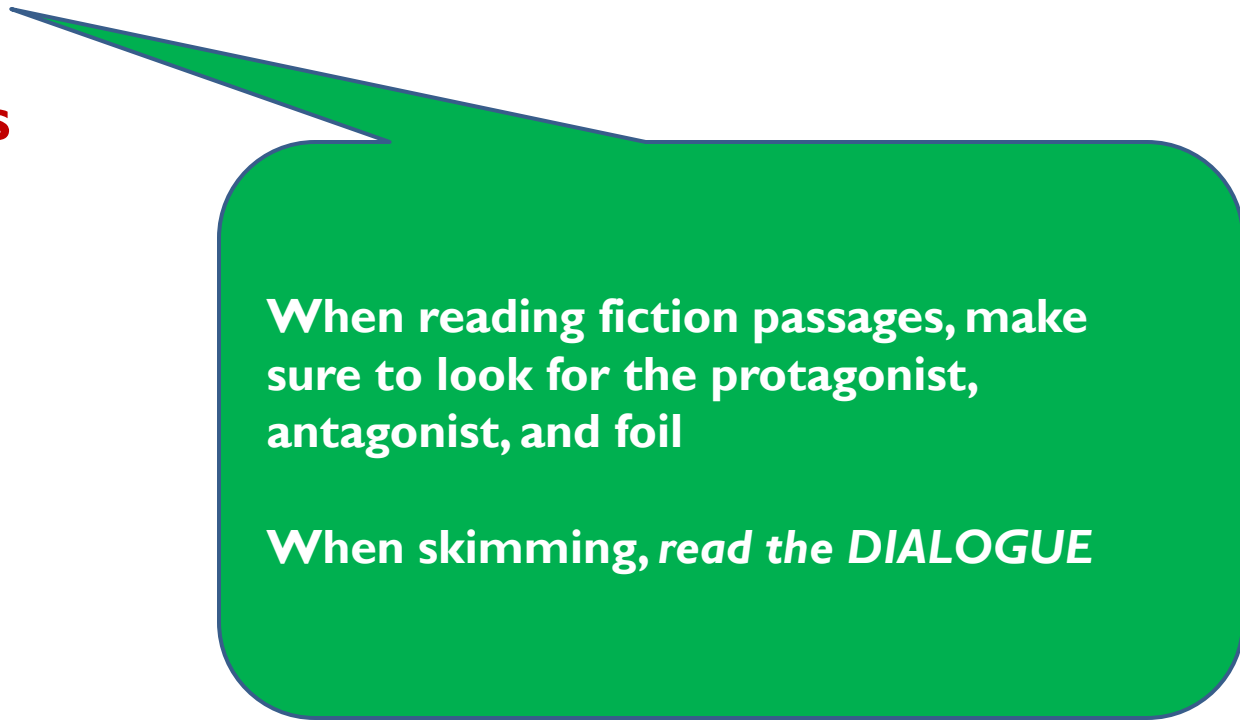
Use Process of Elimination



Prose Fiction Passages

Prose Fiction Questions Ask About

1. **Plot**
2. **Characters**
3. **Setting**
4. **Theme**



When reading fiction passages, make sure to look for the protagonist, antagonist, and foil

When skimming, read the *DIALOGUE*




Prose Fiction I

Fiction passages usually have three types of characters:


- 1. The Protagonist: *hero, main character***
- 2. The Antagonist: *villain***
- 3. The Foil: *person or situation that exists to tell the reader something about the protagonist***



ACT Science Intro



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ACT Science

- ▶ 7 Passages
- ▶ 5-7 Questions Each
- ▶ 40 Questions
- ▶ 35 Minutes

Designed so that time will be an issue!



Three Types of Passages

- ▶ **Charts and Graphs** (15q's in 3 passages)
- ▶ **Experiments** (18 q's in 3 passages)
- ▶ **Conflicting Scientists** (7 q's in 1 passage)



ACT Science Questions

1. Fetch the answer (easy)
 - ▶ Ex: Section 4 Question #1
2. Analyze based on the given info (medium)
 - ▶ Ex: Section 4 Question #4
3. Generalize and make the appropriate conclusions (hard)
 - ▶ Ex: Section 4 Question #27



Ordering the Questions to Maximize Time

- ▶ Questions are NOT in “easy to hard” order
- ▶ All questions are worth the SAME amount!
- ▶ Up to you to order the questions to maximize your chance of success!



Ordering Science Questions

Question Type

Easy, Most Specific

Question Type

Hard, most general

Easy/fast/short

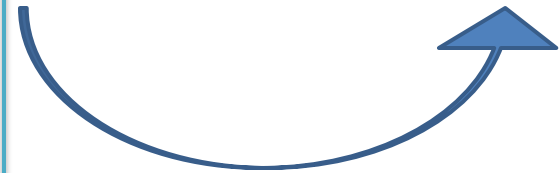


Medium

Medium



Hard/long/slow



Fetch Questions

Ask you to simply find information from the chart/graph/experiment

Analyze Questions

Ask you for “1-step” analysis based on information stated

General Questions

Ask you to draw general conclusions and draw comparisons between charts/scientists/experiments

Easy (Fetch) Questions

- ▶ Ask you to simply look at the chart/graph/experiment
- ▶ Approx 10-15 of the 40 questions
- ▶ Can be answered quickly...do them first!
- ▶ Will NOT try to trick you



Medium (Analyze) Questions

- ▶ 1-Step Analysis of information given
- ▶ 15-20 of the 40 questions
- ▶ Answers must have **direct support** from the passage



Infer / Suggest / Imply

Jack came to today's ACT training this afternoon with wet hair.

What can be inferred from the preceding statement?



Difficult (Generalize) Questions

- ▶ Will ask you to make general conclusions based on the given info
- ▶ Mostly appear on “fighting scientists” and experiments passages
- ▶ Use “cover and predict” whenever possible
- ▶ Include questions such as
 - ▶ “What if...”
 - ▶ Compare/contrast



Steps to Solving Science Passages

Step 1. Skim the passage to understand the main points/goals/relationship between variables

Step 2. Identify each Question Type

Step 3. Make Educated Guesses

Step 4. Use POE





Charts and Graphs Passages



Types of Charts/Graphs on the ACT

1. **Linear Graphs**
2. **Graphs with Curves**
3. **Scatter Plots**
4. **Flat Lines**



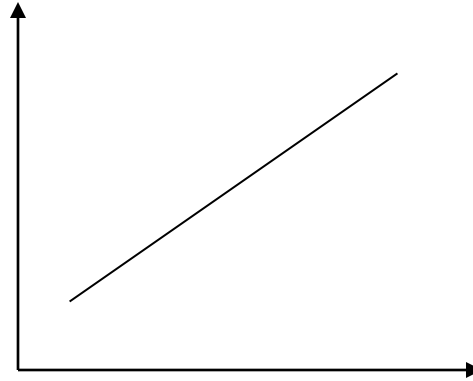
What to do when you see a Graph/Chart

1. What are the variables? (temperature, number of plants, records sold, hp, mph)
2. How are they measured? (grams? Quarts? Percentages?)
3. How are they related/changing? (+, -, NR)

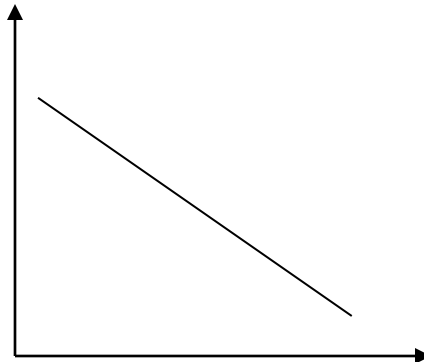


Line Graphs

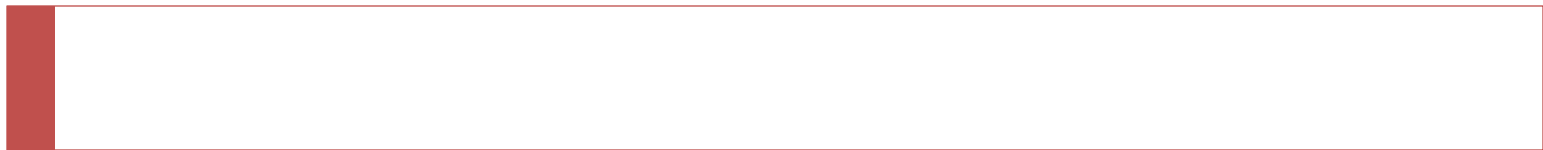
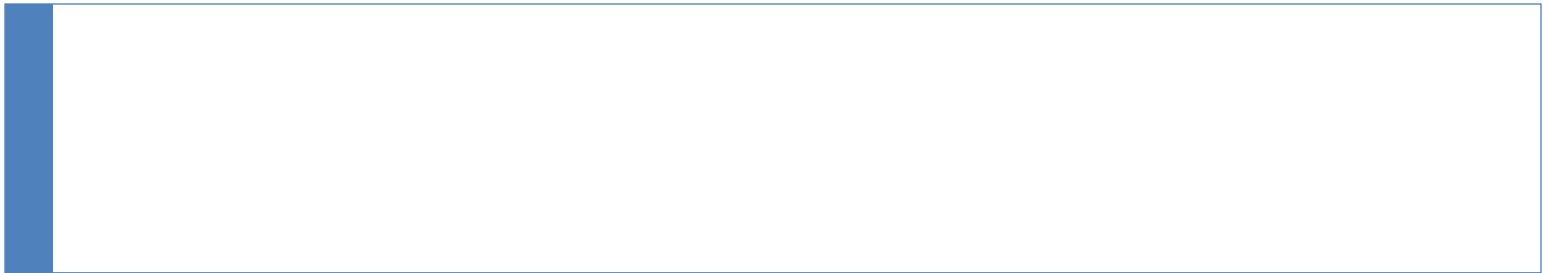
Positive Relationship = direct Relationship = ALWAYS
PUT A (+)



Negative Relationship = inverse /indirect Relationship
= ALWAYS PUT A (-)



Experiments



Steps to Solving Experiments Passages

Step 1. Scan the passage

Step 2. Identify the objective of the experiment(s)

Step 3. Identify how the research is being done

Step 4. Identify the results of each experiment

Step 5. Answer the questions in “easy to hard” order

Step 6. Use POE



Conflicting Scientists

Conflicting Scientists

Step 1. Read hypothesis 1-determine argument.

Step 2. Answer all questions that ask about hypothesis 1 only

Step 3. Read hypothesis 2-determine argument.

Step 4. Answer all questions that ask about hypothesis 2 only

Step 5. Answer questions that ask about the “puzzle fit” of the two hypotheses



Teaching ACT Grammar

- ▶ Very few “aha” moments in ACT grammar
- ▶ This section is great for 9th and 10th grade students
- ▶ Focus on verbs and pronouns



ACT English:

1. 45 Minutes for 75 Questions
2. Questions will come from 5 “passages”
3. Questions will test you on grammar, organization, style, etc..



The Big 5 ACT English Topics

1. Punctuation
2. Grammar
3. Style
4. Sentence structure
5. Organization/Clarity



ACT English Tips

1. Avoid the “Sounds Good Method”
2. Use the answer choices as clues to what is being tested
3. More than one error can be tested in the same question



What's wrong with the
*“Sounds Good
Method?”*



The WRONG ACT English

Strategy:

Many students use the “*sounds good method*” to solve grammar questions.

The ACT knows this and will try to trick you!

This method WILL force you to make careless errors, and get confused!



Two Little Tricks

- ▶ *Don't be afraid of "NO CHANGE." This is the correct answer 25% of the time*
- ▶ *If "OMIT THE UNDERLINED PORTION" is an answer choice, there's a 50% chance that's the answer*



What if you Don't Spot the Error?

Use the answer choices as your clues!

What clues do the answer choices provide?

A...has....

B...are...

C...has had...

D...is having...



How Students can Improve Scores

Practice makes permanent....



How Students can Improve Scores

**Perfect practice
makes PERFECT**



How Students can Improve Scores

Practice as many REAL SAT and ACT questions as possible

Free released tests online

Practice timed sections...

OUR Motto

***Practice efficiently, and practice how
you PLAY!***



ACT Prep By Grade

▶ 9th and 10th Grade

- ▶ Goal is fundamental skills, intro to testing

▶ Sections to Cover

- ▶ Math Fundamentals (pre-alg/alg I for 9th graders)
- ▶ ACT English (grammar and usage cannot be “crammed for”)
- ▶ ACT reading strategy



ACT Prep By Grade

▶ 11th Grade

- ▶ Goal is to build confidence for spring test

▶ Sections of Workbook to Cover

- ▶ Avoiding ACT Algebra
- ▶ Using logic for geometry
- ▶ ACT science strategy
- ▶ ACT reading strategy
- ▶ ACT essay plan



ACT Prep By Grade

▶ 12th Grade

- ▶ Goal is to review key methods and find areas for quick improvement

▶ Sections to Cover

- ▶ Avoiding ACT Algebra review
- ▶ ACT science-avoiding past mistakes
- ▶ ACT reading-saving time
- ▶ ACT essay improvement strategy



**“Everyone’s
got a plan**



**Until they
get hit.”**

-Mike Tyson

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