

## ACT General Information

The test is broken into five sections (four sections are required, the writing portion is optional) and the total test time is 3 hours (or 3 hours and 40 minutes with essay).

### Test Breakdown:

- English: 45 minutes for 75 multiple choice questions
- Math: 60 minutes for 60 multiple choice questions
- Reading: 35 minutes for 40 multiple choice questions
- Science: 35 minutes for 40 multiple choice questions
  - Optional Writing: 40 minutes for one essay

For the 2020-2021 school year, the price of the test is \$55 without the essay and \$70 with the essay, but many highschools offer fee waivers that let students take the test for free, ask your guidance counselor to learn more.

Plan to register early (at least a month before the test)

- Registration tips are available at <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html>

### Scoring Basics:

- The ACT is scored on a scale of 1-36
  - The writing portion (essay) does not factor into this score
  - The essay is scored separately, from 1-6
- The average score is 21, but averages differ for each university
  - To find a good score to aim for based on your goals, go to <https://blog.prepscholar.com/what-is-a-good-act-score-a-bad-act-score-an-excellent-act-score>
- Students usually take either the SAT or the ACT for college admissions
  - To see which test is better for you, take the quiz at <https://www.princetonreview.com/college/sat-act>
- For more information, or to register and access practice questions, go to the official ACT website at <https://www.act.org/content/act/en.html>

## **ACT Preparation/Practice Resources:**

There are plenty of free, online practice tests and study tools available to help prepare you for the exam. It is important to study to ensure that you do your best on this exam.

- **General ACT Test Prep Resources:**
  - For free, online courses visit <https://academy.act.org/>
  - For free, full-length practice exams, visit <https://www.kaptest.com/act/free/act-free-practice-test>
  - For testing strategies and tips, visit <https://www.educationcorner.com/act-test-taking-strategies.html>
  
- **Test Day Tips:**
  - On the day of your exam, make sure you bring an ID, number 2 pencils, and your test registration confirmation ticket
    - More information about what to bring/expect on test day can be found at <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-day.html>
  - During the test, don't stress and just do your best!
    - Make sure to answer all questions, as there is no penalty for wrong answers, so you should guess even if unsure.
    - Think of this as an opportunity to show what you know.
    - Follow all instructions and proper test behavior, as failure to follow regulations can result in test scores being cancelled.
      - Students can choose up to 6 universities/colleges to send their ACT scores to for free (during test, proctor will inform you of how to complete this process)
  - After the test, take a deep breath and be proud of yourself, you did it!
    - Try to allow yourself time to rest, the ACT can be very stressful and draining. Go home, eat something, and relax for a bit!
  
- **Requesting Test Scores:**
  - Scores will usually be available 2 weeks after the exam

- To access scores, sign in via the ACT website (using the account created to register for the exam)
- Once you have completed the exam, you can request for your scores to be sent to additional colleges (for a fee). To do this, visit <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/scores/sending-your-scores.html>.