



2007|2008 ACT at a Glance

The ACT® test contains four curriculum-based, multiple-choice tests that measure academic achievement in the areas of English, mathematics, reading, and science, as well as an optional Writing Test, for which students complete an essay. The specific knowledge and skills selected for evaluation are determined through a detailed analysis of three sources of information. First, the objectives for instruction for grades seven through

twelve are examined for all states in the United States that have published such objectives. Second, textbooks on state-approved lists for courses in grades seven through twelve are reviewed. Third, educators at the secondary and postsecondary levels are surveyed and consulted to determine the knowledge and skills taught in grades seven through twelve that are prerequisite to successful performance in postsecondary courses.

ACT English Test

The English Test measures the student's understanding of the conventions of standard written English (punctuation, grammar and usage, and sentence structure) and of rhetorical skills (strategy, organization, and style). Spelling, vocabulary, and rote recall of rules of grammar are not tested. Three scores are reported: a total test score, a subscore in Usage/Mechanics, and a subscore in Rhetorical Skills.

ACT English Test 75 items, 45 minutes	
Content/Skills	Number of Items
Usage/Mechanics	40
Punctuation	10
Grammar and Usage	12
Sentence Structure	18
Rhetorical Skills	35
Strategy	12
Organization	11
Style	12
Total	75

ACT Reading Test

The Reading Test measures the student's reading comprehension as a product of referring and reasoning skills. The test items require the student to derive meaning from several texts by (1) referring to what is explicitly stated and (2) reasoning to determine implicit meanings and to draw conclusions, comparisons, and generalizations. The test comprises four prose passages that are representative of the level and kinds of writing commonly encountered in college freshman curricula. The passages are selected from published sources. Three scores are reported: a total test score, a subscore in Arts/Literature reading skills (based on the prose fiction and humanities sections), and a subscore in Social Studies/Sciences reading skills (based on the social studies and natural sciences sections).

ACT Reading Test 40 items, 35 minutes	
Content Area	Number of Items
Prose Fiction	10
Humanities	10
Social Studies	10
Natural Sciences	10
Total	40

ACT Mathematics Test

The Mathematics Test assesses the mathematical skills that students have typically acquired in courses taken up to the beginning of grade twelve. The test requires students to use their reasoning skills to solve practical problems in mathematics. The problems assume knowledge of basic formulas and computational skills but do not require memorization of complex formulas or extensive computation. The use of calculators is permitted on the Mathematics Test. Four scores are reported: a total test score and a subscore in Pre-Algebra/Elementary Algebra, Intermediate Algebra/Coordinate Geometry, and Plane Geometry/Trigonometry.

ACT Mathematics Test 60 items, 60 minutes	
Content Area	Number of Items
Pre-Algebra	14
Elementary Algebra	10
Intermediate Algebra	9
Coordinate Geometry	9
Plane Geometry	14
Trigonometry	4
Total	60

ACT Science Test

The Science Test measures the student's interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problem-solving skills required in the natural sciences. The test is made up of seven sections, each of which consists of some scientific information (the stimulus) and a set of test items. The scientific information is conveyed in one of three different formats. One score, a total test score, is reported for the ACT Science Test.

ACT Science Test 40 items, 35 minutes		
Content Area	Format	Number of Items
Biology	Data Representation	15
Earth/Space Sciences		
Chemistry	Conflicting Viewpoints	7
Physics		
Total		40

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ACT at a Glance (continued)

ACT Writing Test

The Writing Test is an optional 30-minute essay test that measures writing skills emphasized in high school English classes and in entry-level college composition courses. The test consists of one writing prompt that describes two points of view on an issue, and students are asked to write a response about their position on the issue. The prompts are designed to be appropriate for response in a 30-minute timed test and to reflect students' interests and experiences. Students have the option of registering for the ACT or the ACT Plus Writing. The Writing Test may not be taken alone.

Scoring the ACT Writing Test. Taking the Writing Test does *not* affect students' scores on the multiple-choice tests or their Composite score. Rather, students who took both the English and Writing tests receive two additional scores: a Combined English/Writing score on a scale of 1–36 and a Writing subscore on a scale of 2–12. Students also receive comments on their essays, and images of the essays are available to their high school and the colleges to which scores are reported from that test date.

ACT Essay View

ACT Essay View is a free Web-based service that allows high schools and colleges to look at and download images of actual written responses for students who receive a score on the ACT Writing Test and list that school to receive scores. One person at each high school serves as the contact for ACT Essay View for that school. The ACT contact person for your school can provide the account login information to as many individuals at your school as they authorize. In fact, ACT encourages the contact person to make this service known to others at the school, including English teachers or others assisting students or those making decisions on the basis of ACT Writing results.

The text of student essays may be used in a variety of ways. Teachers may want to read all the essays for students in a particular class (if all or most took the Writing Test) and make their own observations about the performance of their students. Essays may also be used in individual tutorial sessions with students. Allowing students to score their own essays with the six-point rubric or asking them to rewrite or revise their essays can help them learn where and how to improve their writing.

ACT Noncognitive Components

The noncognitive components of the ACT include the High School Course/Grade Information questionnaire, the ACT Interest Inventory, and the Student Profile Section. Students respond to them when they register for an established ACT test date.

High School Course/Grade Information—To increase the usefulness of ACT results, the High School Course/Grade Information questionnaire asks students about the courses they have completed or plan to take in high school and the grades they have received.

ACT Interest Inventory—The ACT Interest Inventory is completed when students register for the ACT. The Unisex Edition of the ACT Interest Inventory (UNIACT) consists of 72 items. The six UNIACT scales were developed to parallel Holland's six interest and occupational types.

Student Profile Section—The Student Profile Section (SPS) collects responses about students' educational and vocational aspirations, plans, abilities, accomplishments, and needs.

2007|2008 Test Dates and Registration Deadlines

Test Date	Registration Deadline (regular fee)	Late Registration (late fee required)
<i>The September 15, 2007, test date is available ONLY in Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and West Virginia.</i>		
September 15, 2007	August 10, 2007	August 11–24, 2007
October 27, 2007	September 21, 2007	September 22–Oct. 5, 2007
December 8, 2007	November 2, 2007	November 3–15, 2007
February 9, 2008*	January 4, 2008	January 5–18, 2008
April 12, 2008	March 7, 2008	March 8–21, 2008
June 14, 2008	May 9, 2008	May 10–23, 2008

*February 2008 test date is not available in New York.

To order ACT Registration packets, call 319/337-1270 or go to www.act.org/aap/forms/counsel.html.

For more information about the ACT, go to www.actstudent.org.