

ACT Test-Taking Strategies (www.educationcorner.com):

General Tips

- Take the full, timed practice test. Review explanations for incorrect answers.
- Answer easy questions first.
- Write in your book to work out problems and jot down key information.
- Select the best answer; there is only one correct answer.
- Don't spend too much time on any one question due to time limits.
- Read the questions in its entirety.

English 75 questions, 45 minutes

- For Punctuation questions, never focus on just part of the sentence. Ensure your answer makes sense within the context of the entire sentence and passage.
- For Grammar questions, read the question carefully and ensure you understand what is being requested.
- For Organization questions, find the choice that best leads into the first sentence of the passage.
- For Strategy questions, take the entire passage into account and consider whether a suggested revision adds clarity or confuses the message of the passage.
- Double check all other answers before selecting "no change".

Reading 40 questions, 35 minutes

- Read the questions first; this will help you focus on crucial information.
- Read the entire passage carefully; focus on the main points addressed in the passage.
- Every answer must be directly and clearly supported by the passage. If it isn't, it's incorrect.
- Employ the 3-stage method (previewing, reading, reviewing) to maximize your comprehension and recall of each passage.
- Take short notes as you read each paragraph; keep track of the various people and opinions mentioned.
- Make sure your answer is supported by the passage.

Math 60 questions, 60 minutes

- Set-up and work through problems before examining the answers.
- Do not rely *too heavily* on a calculator since you will have to work problems out to effectively solve them.
- Don't forget that "of" indicates multiplication is required.
- Review and know number properties (odd, even, prime, and order of operation) triangles (30-60-90 and 45-45-90 rules, pythagorean triplets 3:4:5;5:12:13 and their multiples), common shapes and math relationships (values, ratios, percents)

Science 40 questions, 35 minutes

- Don't get distracted by unnecessary details
- For Data representation and research summary passages, skip the passage, read the question and attempt to answer questions using on the graphs, charts, and other visuals represented.
- For Conflicting viewpoints passages, read the entire passage and try to distinguish between the scientist's and student's viewpoints.

SAT Test-Taking Strategies (www.educationcorner.com):

General Tips

- As you go through each section, answer all of the questions you know the answers to first. Mark all the questions you don't immediately know the answer to and return and answer them later.
- Since you're allowed to write in the test book, cross out answers you know are wrong and do scratch work.
- Pace yourself! This test is timed. Only spend a few moments on the easy questions and no more than a minute or two on the harder questions. Don't forget that the SAT consists of several small, timed, tests.
- A rule of thumb is that easy questions on the SAT typically precede harder questions.
- Make sure that you fully understand each question before you answer it. If you've taken a lot of practice tests you'll be tempted to answer questions you recall from practice tests. Make sure to answer the questions being asked and not those from practice tests.
- You need to know the types of questions to expect on the SAT. There 52 Reading questions (65 minutes), 44 Writing & Language questions (35 minutes), 58 Math questions (80 minutes) and one Essay (50 minutes).

Critical Reading Section: 52 Reading questions (65 minutes), 44 Writing & Language questions (35 minutes)

Sentence Completion

The Critical Reading section of the SAT is broken down into two parts: Sentence Completion and Reading Comprehension. Sentence completion questions make up about 25% of the Critical Reading section on the SAT. Each sentence completion question includes one or two blanks and you are required to find the best answer choice(s) to complete the sentence. On average, you'll need to complete each question in under one minute.

- One of the best strategies for the sentence completion section is to complete each sentence in your mind using your own words BEFORE looking at the answers. Once you've completed the sentence in your own words identify the selection choice closest to your answer.
- If you come across words you're unfamiliar with use the context of the sentence to figure out what they mean.
- One common mistake that students make is that they tend to overlook the reversing effect of negative words (such as not) or prefixes (such as un-).
- Allow transition words, such as likewise and although, to suggest the better answer.
- If you just can't figure out what a word means, think about other words you know that have similar prefixes, roots, or suffixes.

Reading Comprehension (Short and Long):

The Critical Reading section of the SAT (also known as the Reading Comprehension section) tests your ability to comprehend what you read. You'll be given several passages to read and then be required answer questions based on the messages stated or implied in each passage. Passages will vary in length. Some will take about 3 minutes to read and be followed by just two questions. Others may take up to 15 minutes to read and be followed by up to 13 questions.

- Identify the main idea of each passage.
- Always make sure to read the italicized introductory text.
- Always answer the easy questions first. Come back and answer the more difficult questions once you've answered all the questions you know the answer to.
- Use the line referenced numbers that appear in the questions to find the correct spot in each passage.
- You should limit your answer for reading comprehension questions to what is stated or implied in the passages.

- Read each passage through at least once before reading the associated questions.
- The most important sentences of each paragraph are the first and the last. Pay particular attention to these sentences.
- First, answer all the questions for the topics that you are familiar with. Afterwards, go back and answer the questions for the topics you are unfamiliar with.
- Focus the majority of your time answering the questions -- not reading and re-reading the text.

Math Section: 80 minutes are allotted for the completion of the Math ACT section (25 minutes for the "no calculator" section and 55 minutes for the "calculator" section).

The following are tips and techniques for improving your performance on the student produced response questions.

- There are no negative answers in the student produced response math section. So if you come up with a negative answer, you'll need to try again.
- You're able to enter a short answer in any column provided. For example, .8 can be entered in columns 1-2, or 2-3, or 3-4.
- If your answer ends up being a repeating decimal, such as .4444444, just enter as many decimal points as you can in the grid provided.
- Do not provide mixed numbers as answers. For example, if your answer is $2 \frac{3}{4}$, you need to change it to $\frac{11}{4}$ or 2.75.

The following are tips and techniques for improving your performance on the standard multiple choice questions.

- Read the question thoroughly and make sure you understand what the question is looking for. Select the best answer provided for the variable, value, or expression that is requested.
- Make sure that you prepare beforehand for this section of the test. Know all of the important math definitions, formulas, and concepts that might appear.
- Use only the test booklet provided to show your work and for marking up diagrams or graphs presented.
- If a question seems complicated and time consuming look for a shortcut to the answer. Don't get involved in detailed calculations that are going to require a lot of time. Look at the answers provided and see if you can rule out any as incorrect answers. This will help narrow down your selection of possible correct choices.
- If you come across a question with a strange symbol, just substitute the accompanying definition when attempting to figure out the correct answer.

ACT College & Career Readiness Benchmarks

The ACT College Readiness Benchmarks are scores that represent the level of achievement required for students to have a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in corresponding credit-bearing courses.*

***ACT College Readiness Benchmark Scores**

English Section Score	18
Math Section Score	22
Reading Section Score	22
Science Section Score	23

SAT College & Career Readiness Benchmarks

Each assessment in the SAT Suite has an associated set of metrics called the college and career readiness benchmarks. The new college and career readiness benchmarks are based on actual student success in entry-level college courses. The SAT benchmark scores represent a 75% likelihood of a student achieving at least a C grade in a first-semester, credit-bearing college course in a related subject.

- The SAT Math benchmark is the SAT Math section score associated with a 75% chance of earning at least a C in first-semester, credit bearing, college-level courses in algebra, statistics, precalculus, or calculus.
- The SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing benchmark is the SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section score associated with a 75% chance of earning at least a C in first-semester, credit bearing, college-level courses in history, literature, social science, or writing.

***SAT College Readiness Benchmarks**

ERW Section Score	480
Math Section Score	530

ACT-SAT Concordance Tables

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/guide-2018-act-sat-concordance.pdf>