

REASONS TO CHOOSE THE ACT® TEST



1

YOU CAN GET YOUR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS BACK

With three tests out of the year, you can order your ACT My Answer Key — your personal question and answer key to help you strategize for success.

2

SCHOLARSHIPS

Taking the ACT test can increase your chances of earning new or better scholarships.

3

YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN STUDYING FOR THE ACT FOR YEARS

The test is designed so by the end of your junior year, you've likely covered all the material that you will see on the test.

4

MORE OPPORTUNITY TO STAND OUT

Many colleges and universities still require or will consider college entrance scores as part of a holistic admissions process — stand out from the crowd with an ACT score!

5

ENGLISH LEARNER SUPPORT

The ACT test is the only college entrance exam that provides support to English learners on national test dates.

6

YOU CAN TAILOR YOUR TESTING EXPERIENCE

Test on paper OR online. Starting April 2025, online testers will experience the enhanced ACT with a shorter overall format. Enhancements will be available for paper testers beginning September 2025.

7

STEM READINESS

The ACT test is the only admissions test to measure science skills. If you choose to take the science section, you will receive a STEM score to let you know if you are ready for a STEM major.

8

COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING

The ACT includes an education and career planning section to help you plan for life after high school.

Find out more at act.org/student.

Comparison of the ACT to the SAT*

	The	SAT
Accepted at all US colleges	✓	✓
Get your test and answer key back for future test prep with purchase of ACT My Answer Key	•	*
Allows for paper/pencil testing as well as online	•	*
No penalty for guessing	~	~
Free daily practice questions	✓	✓
Free comprehensive test practice	~	✓
Test fees waived for eligible students	✓	✓
Fee waiver students eligible for college application fee waiver	~	~
Free score reports	✓	✓
All tests 1 hour or less	✓	×
Measures what you learn in high school	✓	✓
Access to English learner supports for national test dates	•	*
You can get a STEM score	✓	×
Optional writing test	~	*
Testing time	2 hours 55 minutes + 40-minute essay (optional)	2 hours 14 minutes
Structure	4 tests + optional writing test	2 tests
Longest test	1 hour	1 hour 10 minutes
Shortest test	35 minutes	1 hour 4 minutes
Score range	Composite 1–36 (writing domain scores: 2–12)	Composite 400–1600

*Based on publicly released SAT information.