



## ACT Tips and Tricks

- When the last five minutes are called, fill in every empty bubble you have left. If you are able to continue and answer more questions, just change them as needed.
- If you need to skip a question, start a list of questions so you can go back later if you have time.
  - Don't stare at a single question for a long time--there is no shame in guessing or skipping.
- Don't let crazy wording or strange subjects stress you out. Most of the things they test are basic; they are just trying to confuse you with the vocabulary. "Think Simple"
- On science section, skip the introduction unless a question asks about a specific science concept. Most of the information you need is in the graphs.
  - If you don't know a word in science, first look at the axes of the graphs and then read the introduction. Most of the technical terms are defined in the test.
- All answer choices in the math section are in numerical order, so if you end up plugging numbers in to find the answer start with C, that way if it is too big or small you can eliminate three by testing one.
- Use process of elimination as you read answer choices, especially if you are guessing. Try to eliminate as many as possible! Your chances of getting it write by guessing go up every time you eliminate an answer.
  - If you can't eliminate any, pick between the two most similar answers
- Throughout the test continue checking the numbered bubbles on the answer sheet to make sure you are always marking the right question.
- Make note cards on strategy; take to the test and look them over beforehand.
- Practice applying each strategy and see which one works best for you.
- Try to take one practice test every week to track your progress.
- Know all directions ahead of time so you don't waste time trying to understand them.
- Learn how long it takes you to complete each section. If you have extra time, great! Use that to go back over and check all of your answers. If you don't have extra time, make sure to start timing yourself during your

practice. This will help shave down your time so you can answer more without having to guess.

**ACT**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Time (minutes)</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Time/Question</b>
English	45	75	36 sec
Mathematics	60	60	1 min
Reading	35	40 4 passages	1 min 25 sec 8 min 45 sec/passage
Science	35	40 5 passages	1 min 25 sec 7 min/passage
Essay	30		