

# ACT Strategies

You can push your score higher!

## ENGLISH Tips:

- Plug your answer into the space and reading the complete statement to hear how it sounds.
- Mark the question stem such as circle the capitalized words like NOT and LEAST before answering.
- Select the most concise answer choice when all choices are grammatically correct.
- Know your parts of speech, parts of sentences, grammar & punctuation rules!

## MATH Tips:

- GET AS MANY OF THE FIRST 30 QUESTIONS CORRECT AS POSSIBLE.
- Pacing is crucial. Guideline: 1st half approximately 23-25 min, second half 35-37 min.
- Math test typically moves from less rigorous to more rigorous/advanced concepts.
- Complete easier ones first, then go back to harder ones.
- Don't get bogged down on one question. If you feel yourself working for three or four minutes guess, flag the question, and come back to it later.
- Train yourself to go back and ask "Did I answer the question they asked?"
- Circle important facts/word.
- Glance at form of answers BEFORE doing any math: sometimes they don't simplify answers at all; often leave answers with square roots, pi or trig functions (as opposed to getting a decimal result).
- Draw and label a figure if there is none.

## READING Tips:

- Tracking – Use your finger as you read!
- Push yourself to read a little faster than usual.
- Don't memorize, just look back as needed. It's an open-book test! The passage is right there for you.
- Read carefully. One word can change the meaning of the question or the answer.
- Answers have to be supported from the passage.

## SCIENCE Tips:

- Pacing/timing is critical on this test – USE a watch!
- General rule – on 7 question passages, finish that passage and questions in 6 minutes. If there are 6 questions, finish in 5 min. PRACTICE this at home. Practice is one of the very best ways to raise science test scores.
- DO READ the overview for the gist of the experiment AND at least skim the passage – don't completely skip it – the passage is read for general understanding, not full comprehension.
- Mark key words. Do not get caught up in words you don't understand or all the details of tables and charts. Look over them to know where the information is.
- Two – handed reading is very helpful to most students. One hand on the table or chart, other hand on the question.
- Choose the 1<sup>st</sup> answer you can't prove wrong & move on.  
Mark an answer for every question on a passage, even if it is a guess, in case you don't have time to come back to it.

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