



2008|2009 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. Learn more at www.act.org.

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	
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	
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		
40 items, 35 minutes		
Content Area	Format	Number of Items
Biology	Data Representation	15
Earth/Space Sciences		
Chemistry	Research Summaries	18
Physics		
	Conflicting Viewpoints	7
Total		40

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.

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 (1–36) and a Writing subscore (2–12) and comments on their essays.

ACT Noncognitive Components

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 72-item ACT Interest Inventory is completed when students register for the ACT.

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

