

The ACT at a glance

		Content	Item types	Score
English	45 minutes Measures understanding of the conventions of standard written English.	Punctuation Grammar and usage Sentence structure Rhetorical skills (strategy, organization, and style)	75 questions Multiple choice	English Score: 1–36 Subscores: • Usage/mechanics: 1–18 • Rhetorical skills: 1–18
Mathematics	60 minutes Assesses math skills in six areas.	Prealgebra Elementary algebra Intermediate algebra Coordinate geometry Plane geometry Trigonometry	60 questions Multiple choice Students can use a calculator.	Mathematics Score: 1–36 Subscores: • Prealgebra/elementary algebra: 1–18 • Intermediate algebra/coordinate geometry: 1–18 • Plane geometry / trigonometry: 1–18
Reading	35 minutes Measures reading comprehension as a product of referring and reasoning skills.	Reading selections from four areas: social studies, the natural sciences, prose fiction, and the humanities	40 questions Multiple choice	Reading Score: 1–36 Subscores: • Social studies/sciences: 1–18 • Arts/literature/reading skills: 1–18
Science	35 minutes Tests the interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problem-solving skills required in the natural sciences.	Biology Chemistry Physics Earth/space sciences (geology, astronomy, and meteorology)	40 questions Multiple choice Students <i>are not permitted</i> to use a calculator.	Science Score: 1–36 No subscores for science section.
Composite	3 hours and 30 minutes including breaks	The Composite Score is an average of the English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science tests	Four multiple-choice tests	Composite Score: 1–36
Optional Writing Test	30 minutes Measures writing skills	Student's ability to: • Make judgments • Develop a position • Maintain focus • Organize ideas • Communicate clearly	Essay	Combined English/Writing Score: 1–36 Subscore: 2–12, reflecting performance on Writing Test only.

Handout 7F