

# THE ACT:

## Exam Overview & Section Breakdown



### EXAM OVERVIEW

Section Scores: 0-36 points

Essay Score: 2-12 points

Total Score: Average of English, Math, Reading, and

Science section scores

No guessing penalty

### ENGLISH

Format: 75 questions  
(5 passages)

Time: 45 minutes

- Students must read a passage and correct the grammar
- Tests grammar rules related to punctuation, parts of speech, sentence structure, and idioms
- Tests rhetorical skills such as editing, organizing, inserting, or deleting sentences

### MATH

Format: 60 questions

Time: 60 minutes

- Tests statistics, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, precalc, and trigonometry
- Does NOT provide commonly used formulas for students
- Multiple-choice questions only
- Questions in order of difficulty (easy to difficult)



## THE ACT: Section Breakdown

### READING

Format: 40 questions  
(4 long passages)

Time: 35 minutes

- 4 passage types: Prose Fiction, Social Sciences, Humanities, and Natural Sciences
- Tests speed and instant recall of facts from the passages

### SCIENCE

Format: 40 questions  
(6–7 passages)

Time: 35 minutes

- Tests ability to analyze charts/-graphs and draw conclusions
- One passage will ask students to weigh different hypotheses or conflicting viewpoints from a group of scientists
- Focuses more on logic and scientific thinking than on actual scientific knowledge

### WRITING

Format: 1 prompt

Time: 40 minutes

- Provides students with a short paragraph on an issue and asks for student's viewpoint
- Tests ability to write a persuasive argument in response to a specific, modern-day issue
- Students must incorporate at least 2 of 3 provided perspectives into the Essay
- Scored on 4 domains
- Essay is optional, though some colleges require the Essay