Your Guide to Self Prep: ACT Math



ACT Math Section Overview



Format/Timing:

- 60 questions
- Time: 60 minutes long

Content:

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

STEP ONE

Familiarize
yourself with
the content
and timing of
the section.

Take a timed practice test or practice section. You can take a proctored ACT with ArborBridge or purchase a book of practice tests directly from the ACT or another test prep company.

Request a practice test here: https://www.arborbridge.com/contact/

STEP TWO

Grade your exam and identify your weaknesses.

Carefully consider the types of questions you got wrong. On the Math section, categorize your mistakes into these four categories:

1. Algebra

Did you struggle with problems involving variables, including problems that asked you to use variables to produce and solve your own equations?

2. Arithmetic

Did you make computational errors? Were you unsure of how to deal with things like exponents, logarithms, or order or operations?

3. Word problems

Did you struggle turning longer questions into math equations?

4. Geometry

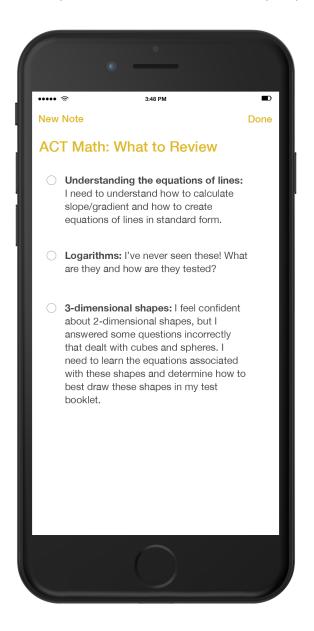
Did you struggle on questions that included geometric figures or described shapes? Feeling unsure about trig functions?

STEP THREE

Establish a plan for preparation.

If you took a practice test with ArborBridge, we will provide you with a detailed score report that includes a prioritized list of topics that you need work on.

If you used The Official ACT Prep Guide, there are detailed explanations for each question. Read all the explanations for your incorrect answers and look for patterns. Then, develop a list of topics that you want to review. For example, your list might look like this:



Identify resources and practice!

Ask your friends and teachers or go online and find whatever resources you think are relevant and helpful.

Our recommendations for resources:

- 1. WolframAlpha is a mobile phone app that provides step-by-step solving instructions for any math equation. It doesn't include instruction, but it's a great way to check your work or identify where you made a mistake.
- 2. Check out *The Official ACT Prep Guide*. In addition to providing practice tests and clear explanations, this guide includes instruction on a variety of math topics.
- 3. There are a number of great online resources that do a good job of explaining the math topics that are tested on the ACT.
 ArborBridge's personal favorites are www.purplemath.com and https://www.khanacademy.org/math.

STEP FIVE

Track your progress.

When you feel ready, take another timed practice test or practice section. Grade your exam, see where you've improved, and repeat Steps 2–5 as necessary.

PLUS...

More tips from our test prep experts

Write it all down!

Write down your work directly on the page. This helps you visualize the problem and eliminate silly mistakes. Start each math session by reviewing what you studied last time.

No one has perfect recall. It usually takes at least three times practicing a technique to fully internalize it.

Take a free practice ACT with ArborBridge!

Students who take practice tests with ArborBridge receive a complimentary score report, fully customized for each individual student. We break down each of your answers to every question on the test and pinpoint your main weaknesses, which ultimately leads to more efficient test prep.

Request your free practice ACT here: https://www.arborbridge.com/contact/

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