

## Strategies for Pacing Yourself when taking the ACT

1. Use the time-per-question guidelines to pace yourself during the exam.
2. Try to answer the questions in less time than suggested in the table.
3. Answer the easier questions first and skip over the more difficult questions.
4. Answer the more difficult questions next.
5. Make sure you answer every question even if you have to guess; there is no penalty for guessing.
6. If time is available after answering all of the questions on a test, go back and check your work on that test.

## Time Limits for ACT Tests

| Test        | Number of Questions | Total Time Allowed | Suggested Time per Passage | Suggested Time per Question |
|-------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| English     | 75                  | 45 minutes         | 1–1½ minutes               | 30 seconds                  |
| Mathematics | 60                  | 60 minutes         |                            | 1 minute                    |
| Reading     | 40                  | 35 minutes         | 2–3 minutes                | 35 seconds                  |
| Science     | 40                  | 35 minutes         | 2 minutes                  | 30 seconds                  |

## General Test-Taking Strategies

The following suggestions for general test-taking strategies are intended to help you do your best on the ACT tests:

1. Before taking the ACT tests, be sure that you understand the directions for each of the tests.
2. Read each question carefully so that you understand what the question asks.
3. The suggested time-per-question guidelines should help you pace yourself during the tests.
4. Try to answer the questions in less time than those given in the table so there will be time to answer more difficult questions and review your answers.
5. Answer the easy questions first and skip over the more difficult questions.
6. Answer the more difficult questions next.
7. Answer every question during the time allowed, even if you must guess; there is no penalty for guessing.
8. If time is available after answering all the questions in a test, go back and check your work on that test. (The supervisor will announce when there are five minutes remaining on each test.)
9. Be precise in marking your answers on your answer document. The question that you are answering should match the number of the line of ovals on your answer document. Erase all unintended marks completely.
10. Once time is called, do not attempt to fill in or alter additional ovals on your answer document. This is prohibited, and your answer document will not be scored.