

# COACH RICE'S ACT TIPS & STRATEGIES

1. Register for the ACT
  - a. Online is tester (make account)
  - b. Cost is \$50.50
  - c. Last registration is \$30
  - d. ACT with Writing \$67
  - e. Scores are available two weeks after test
  - f. Photo required for registration
  - g. Credit Card required for online registration
  
2. English
  - a. Skim section
  - b. Eliminate bad answers
  - c. Don't be afraid of "all of the above"
  - d. 75 questions – 45 minutes
  - e. Skim all questions before reading the passages
  - f. Don't be influenced by other answer choices
  - g. Answer questions in order
  - h. 5 passages
  - i. Writing structure, original style
  - j. Subjects in English portion: Punctuation, Grammar & Usage, and Sentence Structure
  
3. Math
  - a. 5 answer choices
  - b. Questions are equations or word problems
  - c. 60 questions – 60 minutes
  - d. Ranked highest
  - e. Use test book as scratch paper
  - f. Use Calculator wisely (not all of the time)
  - g. 2/3 correct is 25
  - h. Avoid partial answers
  - i. Least difference ---- most difference
  - j. Get a target score
  - k. Eliminate stupid answer
  - l. Subjects in Math portion: Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry & Trigonometry
  
4. Science
  - a. 35 minutes – 40 questions (7 passages)
  - b. Passages:
    - i. 3 Data Representation – 5 questions
    - ii. 3 Research – 5 questions
    - iii. 1 Conflicting Viewpoint – BIAS!
  - c. No order for passages
  - d. Doesn't test knowledge of science tests. It tests your understanding of data.
  - e. Data – charts, titles, graphs, etc.
  - f. Research – 2/3 experiments & their data

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- g. Viewpoints – theories to explain phenomenon
- h. Read chart / use chart, handle a graph – interpolate, next step – extrapolate
- i. Viewpoints
  - i. Detail – Identify info from arguments
  - ii. Inference – Find implied info from arguments
  - iii. Comparison – analyze the two arguments
- j. Strategies
  - i. Don't fear science language
  - ii. Read Passages first
  - iii. Skipping

### 5. Reading

- a. 40 questions – 35 minutes
- b. 4 passages – 10 questions
- c. Read & answer in 9 min per passage
- d. Scan questions before reading
- e. Skim passage for answers before fully reading
- f. Passages: Prose Fiction, Social Science, Humanities, Natural Science

### 6. General Strategies

- a. Take practice tests
- b. 175-minute test
- c. Writing section can separate
- d. Multiple choice
- e. Raw scores combined = composite score
- f. Take ACT multiple times – “Super Score”
- g. End of Junior year
- h. Day of test bring:
  - i. Photo ID
  - ii. Admission Ticket
  - iii. Two #2 Pencils
  - iv. Calculator
  - v. Watch – that doesn't make noise
  - vi. Snack