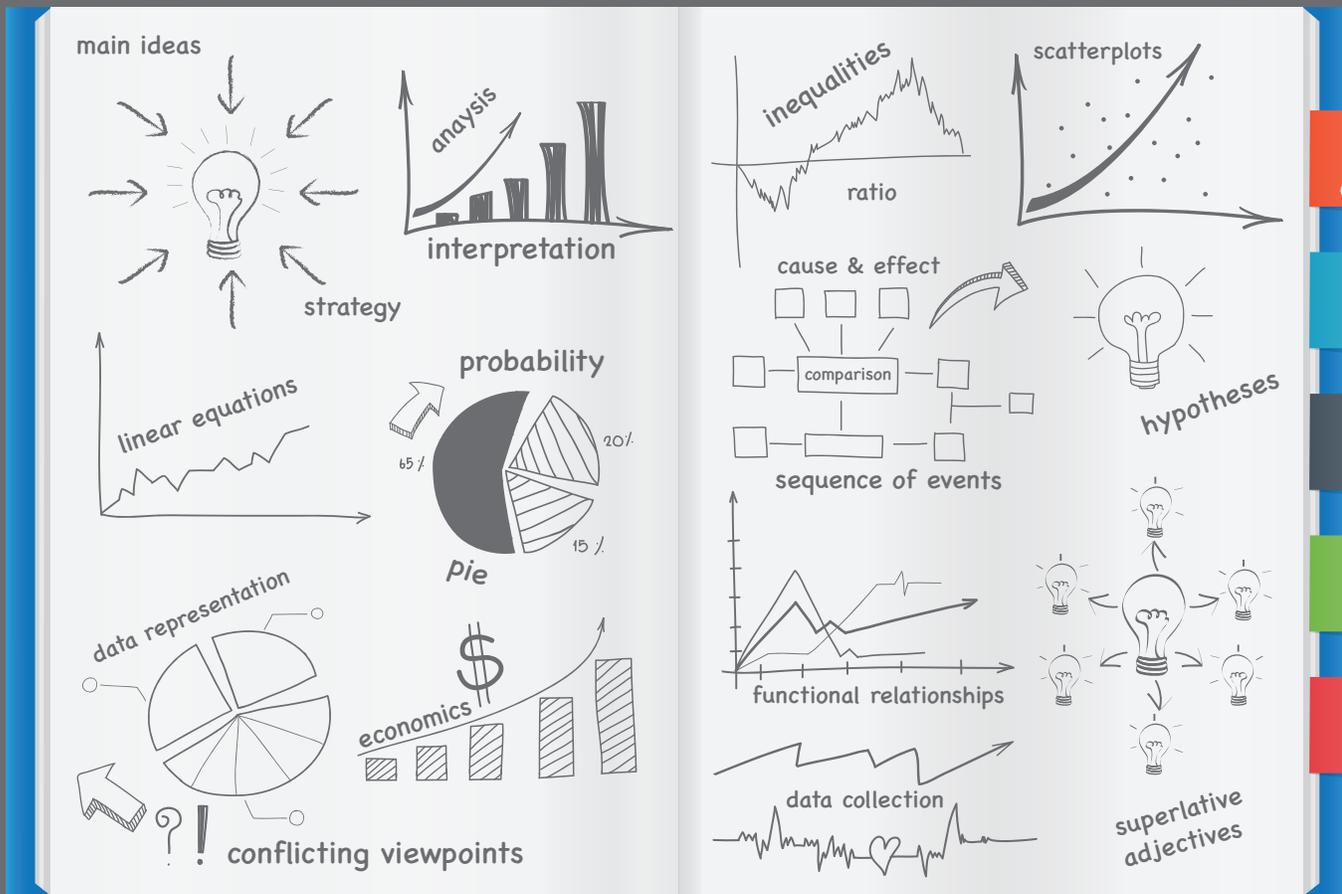


A TEST PREP GUIDE

# ACT STUDY PLAN & SECTION OVERVIEW



overview

english

math

reading

science

A publication of



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Thank you for your interest in MyGuru's 1-1 ACT tutoring. We believe MyGuru's full ACT prep package represents a unique combination of features at a great value, however even if you don't choose a private tutor through MyGuru for your ACT prep, you could still use this document as a guide to develop your own personal study plan.



Before delving into the study plan itself, let's review the topics you'll encounter on all four sections of the ACT: English, Math, Reading, and Science, since the content of the tutoring lessons is dictated by these sections.

## ACT Overview by Section

### ACT English

Know how to correctly use the rules of punctuation, grammar and usage, and sentence structure. Understanding meaning and purpose of passages is important for questions that ask you to make decisions about strategy, organization, and style. The good news is that you don't have to be an Emily Dickinson or an Ernest Hemingway to do well: your tutor can help you to simplify and streamline the rules and train you in how to apply them efficiently and accurately. And if you take the optional Writing Component, your tutor will help you develop and polish your essay and analysis skills.

### ACT Math

Imagine every math class you've ever taken in high school all rolled up into one test. Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, and more. Sound intimidating? No worries, though. Even though the ACT covers math content ranging from pre-algebra to pre-calculus, the test limits itself to fairly specific areas within each of those topics. Your tutor will focus and streamline review to cover the core concepts you're sure to see on this section. Once you've mastered the core concepts and strategies, you can explore advanced topics that become more important to know as your score moves higher on the scale.

### ACT Reading

Are you an expert in social studies, natural sciences, prose fiction, and humanities? The ACT will ask you to answer questions based on reading passages that cover those topics. Fortunately, you don't need to have a PhD in any of the four areas in order to do your best! Your tutor can help you to develop and tweak the skills and strategies needed to read efficiently, extract important information, anticipate questions, and select answers.

### ACT Science

Chances are your name isn't Isaac Newton or Stephen Hawking. No problem: you can still succeed on the ACT Science section – in reality, this section is designed to test your ability to read and interpret charts, graphs, and scientific information. It's not really designed to test your knowledge of science. The background knowledge you've already absorbed in your classes in chemistry, biology, and/or physics will be helpful, however. Your tutor will help you to leverage that knowledge by applying analysis and logical reasoning. Suddenly the arcane subject matter and large amounts of data presented in this section will seem much more manageable.

Now that you've toured the four sections of the ACT, let's review a sample 15 hour MyGuru ACT study plan outline.



# 15 Hour ACT Study Plan Outline

The below outline represents the rough guide a MyGuru tutor would use during a 15 hour package of ACT tutoring. Keep in mind the following:



- You should use the Real ACT Prep Guide as your core ACT prep material during your prep
- You could use this plan for self-study without a tutor, designing your own personal plan with this as a base
- After assessing your own unique strengths and experience, your tutor will likely make adjustments to the course to custom fit your individual needs.
- The outline assumes that each session is 1 hour; however, sometimes students divide the 15 hours up into 1.5 or 2.0 hour blocks (for example) because it fits their schedule better or because they are taking the test in just a few weeks.
- If you're working with a tutor, assuming that for each 1 hour session with the tutor, you'll need to do ~2 to 3 hours of studying on your own after the session to prepare for the next one, or 3 to 4 hours of studying every week...
- ..however if your next test date is 6 weeks away, you'll probably be doing 2 hours with a tutor each week, which means you need to plan on 6 to 8 hours of studying per week. The moral of the story here is that it's better to start early when you're studying for the ACT!
- If you've never taken the ACT before, it's recommended to complete a practice test before the first session for diagnostic purposes.

## Session 1

Before the session: Ensure you're comfortable with the content of the ACT. Read the first few pages of the [ACT.org](http://ACT.org) free "Preparing for the ACT" and take all sections of the practice test included in that document.

### ***During the 1 hour session:***

- Review the diagnostic practice test, document strengths and weaknesses, and adjust overall study plan
- Begin review of core content and strategies in Math
- Begin review of core content and strategies in Science

**Homework:** Complete Math and Science sections of practice test 1 and review again those sections of the Real ACT Prep Guide.

## Session 2

### ***During the 1 hour session:***

- Check Math and Science homework, go over problems missed and related topics, and determine scale scores.



- Begin review of core content and strategies in English
- Begin review of core content and strategies in Reading

**Homework:** Complete English and Reading sections of practice test 1 and review again those sections of the Real ACT Prep Guide.

### Session 3

**During the 1 hour session:**

- Check and go over English and Reading homework and determine scale scores.
- Calculate composite score for practice test 1.
- Continue review of core content and strategies in math, focus on optimizing calculator use

**Homework:** Math section of practice test 2.

### Session 4

**During the 1 hour session:**

- Check Math homework, go over problems missed and related topics, and determine scale scores.
- Review of core content and strategies in Science.

**Homework:** Science section of practice test 2.

### Session 5

**During the 1 hour session:**

- Check Science homework, go over problems missed and related topics, and determine scale score.
- Continue review of core content and strategies in English.

**Homework:** English section of practice test 2.

### Session 6

**During the 1 hour session:**

- Check English homework, go over problems missed and related topics, and determine scale score.
- Continue review of core content and strategies in Reading.

**Homework:** Reading section of practice test 2.





## Session 7

### ***During the 1 hour session:***

- Check Reading homework, go over problems missed and related topics, and determine scale score.
- Summarize core content and strategies for all 4 sections.

**Homework:** Complete all four sections of practice test 3.

## Session 8

### ***During the 1 hour session:***

- Check practice test 3, go over problems missed and related topics,
- Determine scale scores and composite score for practice test 3.

**Homework:** Math section of practice test 4, and Writing prompt from practice test 2.

## Session 9

### ***During the 1 hour session:***

- Check Math homework, go over problems missed and related topics
- Review advanced Math topics, techniques, and strategies.
- Check Writing homework. Review brainstorming and organizational strategies for the Writing Prompt.

**Homework:** Science section of practice test 4, and Writing Prompt from practice test 2.

## Session 10

### ***During the 1 hour session:***

- Check Science homework, go over problems missed and related topics
- Review advanced Science topics, techniques, and strategies.
- Check Writing homework. Continue review of writing techniques and strategies, including techniques to help generate ideas about unfamiliar topics and avoid writer's block.

**Homework:** English section of practice test 4, and Writing Prompt from practice test 3.

## Session 11

### ***During the 1 hour session:***





- Check English homework, go over problems missed and related topics.
- Review advanced English topics, techniques, and strategies.
- Check Writing homework. Review best practices for effective transitions and organization

**Homework:** Reading section of practice test 4, and Writing Prompt from practice test 4.

## Session 12

**During the 1 hour session:**

- Check Reading homework, go over problems missed and related topics.
- Review advanced Reading topics, techniques, and strategies.
- Check Writing homework. Compare to sample essays and review ways to polish and refine the written response.

**Homework:** English and Math sections of practice test 5.

## Session 13

**During the 1 hour session:**

- Check English and Math homework, go over problems missed and related topics
- Go over questions and problems missed.
- Additional review of English and Math content and strategies.

**Homework:** Reading and Science sections of practice test 5.

## Session 14

**During the 1 hour session:**

- Check Reading and Science homework, go over problems missed and related topics
- Calculate scale scores and overall composite score for practice test 5.
- Additional review of Reading and Science content and strategies.

## Session 15

**During the 1 hour session:**

- Check Writing homework.
- Wrap-up with a general review of strategies and techniques and best practices for feeling focused and confident on test day.





**Homework:** Find and complete additional practice tests and problems, using some of the resources in the last section of this document. When you get something wrong, be sure to review why you got it wrong, and complete more practice on that topic if necessary.



## Summary

The ACT is not an IQ test. It is designed to measure your ability to succeed in college, and as such seeks to measure your skills in Reading, English, Math, and Science. However, these are not skills you are naturally born with (although they come easier for some students and with more difficulty for others) – they can be learned and improved. Of course, the more time you have to learn and improve, the better off you'll be. If you're taking the ACT in 4 weeks, you don't have a ton of time. We recommend leaving yourself at least two months to study, working through a plan like the one above. We also recommend taking the official ACT at least twice. Many students take it up to 5 times, seeking to improve their scores each time – colleges don't seem to discourage this.

You can contact MyGuru to learn more about the ACT by visiting the [ACT page on our website](#), emailing us at [info@myguruedge.com](mailto:info@myguruedge.com) or calling 312-278-0321. Wishing you the best of luck when preparing for the ACT.

## Other Resources

MyGuru works with a variety of Partners who provide additional practice questions and guidance to help you succeed on the ACT. Most of these Partners offer services which are complementary to self-study, ACT classes, or private ACT tutoring. Before investing in any of these services, be sure to contact us at [info@myguruedge.com](mailto:info@myguruedge.com). We can offer objective advice on how best to use them, and have negotiated discounted pricing in some cases.

The below resources offer, in various formats, online courses of ACT prep, where you can learn about the key concepts addressed on the tests, do practice problems, and take practice tests, often on a computer or smartphone.

[ACT.org](#) – official online practice course from ACT.org, the makers of the ACT and the Real ACT Prep Guide.

[BenchPrep](#) – online and mobile (i.e., smart phone) practice ACT problems and tests

[ePrep](#) – adaptive, video-based online ACT prep course, which also incorporates paper practice tests to check progress over time

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