

THREE-STEP METHOD FOR IMPROVING YOUR ACT SCORE

This outstanding learning tool uses the traditional classroom strategy of teaching the student how to take charge of improving his/her classroom or standardized test scores. It only takes about 7 hours after completing the workshop, and consistently works well for those students who do it, regardless of GPA. It is common for students using this method to see a 4-6 point improvement between their practice and “real” ACT test scores. Remember, your ACT score is vital both for college admission and for merit scholarships.

Your overall GPA: _____; Expected ACT Score: _____; **Expected ACT Range:** _____ to _____.

Practice ACT Test: English _____ Math _____ Reading _____ Science _____ **Composite (Avg.)** _____.

Is your Composite score in or above your Expected ACT Range? Yes ___; No __. If not, do the following:

THREE-STEP METHOD FOR IMPROVING YOUR ACT SCORE

1. Practice: You took a workshop with strategies and a full-length, strictly timed practice test (**5 hours**).

- You should have marked your answers in the test booklet, then transferred them to your answer sheets.
- You should have transferred the right answers (red capital letters) from your answer sheets to the test booklet. If you did not do these things, please do them now!!

2. Understand why you made each mistake (**4 hours**).

- Compare your wrong answers with the right answers to identify the reason(s) for each wrong answer. Following are the most common reasons for mistakes, and recommended solutions:

Improper time management (“pacing”)

Too slow - be aware of the time allowed for each section of each test. A major problem is dwelling on questions. Strictly self-time each test with a watch or clock.

Too fast - be sure to carefully read all of the answer options. Review questions.

Too careless – be sure to carefully read all of the answer options.

Too tired – you should be well-rested and fed to maintain a high level of concentration.

Too stressed – do relaxation exercises and study the outstanding “Reducing Test Anxiety” self-help document contained in the workshop packet.

Other reason for mistakes – specify the reason and solution.

Subject knowledge gaps, marginal reading or writing skills.

First, see your **TEACHER(S)**. If further help is needed, see a tutor or a learning center (Sylvan, Kaplan, Erickson, etc.). Be sure to bring your practice test booklet when seeking any help. It contains the test questions, your answers and the right answers.

If you have learning problems or other issues – see your counselor or Dr. Bernier

3. Practice: Take another full-length, strictly timed practice test (**3 hours, or 3:30 with writing**).

- After you have identified the reason(s) for each wrong answer and you know how to correct the problem(s), take another strictly practice ACT test to measure your score improvement. ACT recommends either of the following resources for additional practice tests:

“Preparing for the ACT”. Free. Ask your counselor or Dr. Bernier for a previous year’s test booklet. Contains one full-length practice test, answers and tips.

OR

“The Real ACT Prep Guide by ACT”, by Peterson’s. This guide contains three full-length practice tests, answers, explanations and tips. Available in bookstores.

OR

On-line practice test – www.actstudent.org/sampletest/ Free. Print before taking test. Contains a full-length practice test, answers, explanations and tips.

Now, you should be ready to do well on the “real” ACT with Writing test.

SCORECARD

First Practice Test: English _____ Math _____ Reading _____ Science _____ Composite (Avg.) _____
Second Practice Test: English _____ Math _____ Reading _____ Science _____ Composite (Avg.) _____
“Real” ACT Test: English _____ Math _____ Reading _____ Science _____ Composite (Avg.) _____