

ACT Test-taking Strategies

1. Answer all questions.
2. Guess. There is no penalty for guessing.
Eliminate obviously incorrect answers first.
3. Pace yourself. Keep time in mind. Time is the built in stressor. It is designed so you can't finish the entire test.
4. There is one time reminder at 5 minutes. Fill in as many unfinished answer bubbles as you can in the time remaining.
5. The national average is just over 50% correct so you are not expected to get them all right.
6. If time, go over your answers.
7. Eat and drink before the test as there are no breaks.
8. Bring your driver's license, glasses, and calculator if you have one.
9. All test questions are equal to each other—do the shortest ones first.
10. Be familiar with the test and instructions before taking it.
11. You can write on the test. No scratch paper is allowed.
12. You can only work on one section of the test at a time. Don't worry about it once it is finished. Don't go back to a previous section.