

# ACT Facts & Tips

- 1.** The ACT includes four sections, English, Math, Reading, and Science, totaling 215 questions, and an optional writing section.
- 2.** The ACT is given 6 times per year: January, September, October, December, February, April, and June
- 3.** Order the “test information release” for the ACT if it is offered. This means they will send the entire test back to you so you can analyze which questions you got wrong. The ACT typically offers this service on the December, April, and June exams.
- 4.** Take the ACT at least once; however, research shows that of students who took the ACT more than once, 55% increased their composite score on retest. .
- 5.** Approximately 25% of students taking both the ACT and SAT do markedly better on the ACT.
- 6.** The ACT is scored on scale from 1 to 36 based on a composite score derived from each of the testing sections.
- 7.** The ACT testing time is 2 hours and 55 minutes meaning students should spend about 50 seconds on each question.
- 8.** The Science portion of this test deals mostly with graph interpretation and analysis of viewpoints so don't worry about studying any specific science course materials.
- 9.** You should do at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a practice test per week as you prepare for your exam. You should increase this to at least one practice test per week in each of the four weeks leading up to your exam. This means you should spend  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour per night preparing.
- 10.** Answer every question. Your scores on the multiple-choice tests are based on the number of questions you answer correctly. There is no penalty for guessing.
- 11.** The ACT is universally accepted for college admission in the U.S. The ACT is accepted by all 4-year colleges and universities in the U.S., including the Ivy League schools.
- 12.** Go into the ACT with confidence, competitiveness, and try to relax as much as possible.
- 13.** Proper planning and preparation are the keys to success!

