

ACT Reading Test Tips

What will the ACT Reading Test look like?

4 sections: 1 long or 2 shorter passages in each section. 10 questions for each section (**40 questions total**). **35 minutes**. The passages are always in this order:

1. Prose Fiction (excerpt from a novel, short story, memoir, personal essay)
2. Social Studies (topics can include psychology, history, geography, political science, etc.)
3. Humanities (various topics about the arts)
4. Natural Sciences (topics can include biology, chemistry, physics, technology, etc.)

TIP: Answer the passages in the order that play to your strengths.

PACING

You only have **8 minutes** for each of the 4 sections.

Don't read the instructions!
Read instructions **BEFORE** test day! (see back side)

Scores & Passages:

Reading test scale score: 1 - 36

Content	Subscore	%	# of ?s
Literary Narratives	1 - 18	50%	20
Prose Fiction		25%	10
Humanities		25%	10

Content	Subscore	%	# of ?s
Social Studies/Sciences	1 - 18	50%	20
Social Studies		25%	10
Natural Sciences		25%	10

Composite score: 1 - 36 (average of all 4 test scale scores)

Types of Questions:



- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Identify & interpret details | 3. Comparisons & Contrasts | 5. Make generalizations | 7. Author's voice & method |
| 2. Main idea | 4. Cause-Effect | 6. Sequences of events | 8. Determine meaning of words from context |

READING STRATEGY

Step 1: Scan ?s & look for keywords. Circle them.

Step 2: Scan passage looking for these keywords & circle.

Step 3: Summarize each paragraph with annotation in margin (3-5 words).

Step 4: Work detail/fact ?s first, and then other ? types.



Composite FYI

- * 22 composite: answer 26 ?s correctly.
- * 26 composite: answer 31 ?s correctly.
- * 30+ answer 35-40 ?s correctly.
- * Difficult ?s worth same as easy ones. Answer easy ones for more points – GUESS on tough ones. No penalty for wrong answers!

Instructions for the Reading Test

Don't waste a single minute reading instructions during the test. Learning them the before the day of the test saves valuable time and effort! The Reading instructions are below, so get to reading!

DIRECTIONS: There are several passages in this test. Each passage is accompanied by several questions. After reading a passage, choose the best answer to each question and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. You may refer to the passages as often as necessary.

ACT College & Career Readiness Standards

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/college-and-career-readiness/standards.html>

Test Prep

- ACT online prep: <https://academy.act.org/>
- ACT sample test: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/reading-practice-test-questions.html?page=0&chapter=0>
- ACT Student app in iTunes & Play Store
- Preparing for the ACT booklet:
 - <http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/ACT-StudentInfoBooklet.pdf>
- *The Real ACT Prep Guide* book (from the makers of the ACT): find in bookstores
- *Cracking the ACT* by The Princeton Review: find in bookstores
- March 2 Success: <https://www.march2success.com/main/learnmore/satact>