ACT Prep Handout

**What to Know Before the Test:**

* - The ACT includes four sections: English, Math, Reading and Science, totaling 215 questions, and an optional writing section.
* - The ACT is given 6 times per year: February, April, June, September, October and December
* - 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.
* - The ACT is scored on scale from 1 to 36 based on a composite score derived from each of the testing sections.
* - The ACT testing time is 2 hours and 55 minutes meaning students should spend about 50 seconds on each question.
* - 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.
* - Go into the ACT with confidence, competitiveness, and try to relax as much as possible.

**Free Resources:**

[www.actstudent.org/testprep/](http://www.actstudent.org/testprep/) - Sign up for ACT Question of the Day - Preparing for the ACT Booklet - Sample Test Questions

<https://www.number2.com/exams/act/companion/index.cfm?s=0> - ACT Companion Online Prep Course

<http://www.princetonreview.com/college/free-act-practice-test#!rockthetest> - In-Person and Online Practice Tests

<http://www.prepscholar.com/act/s/resources> - 5-day Free Trial Online Prep Program

<http://www.powerscore.com/sat/help/content_practice_tests.cfm> - Four Official ACT Practice Tests

**During the test:**

* Read the directions carefully
* Budget your test taking time
* Change positions to help you relax
* If you go blank, skip the question and go on
* If you’re taking an essay test and you go blank on the whole test, pick a question and start writing. It may trigger the answer in your mind
* Don’t panic when students start handing in their papers. There’s no reward for being the first done
* 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.