

Conquering the ACT

Know the Format

**Know the Preparation
Resources**

Make Sure You Are Ready

Do Your Best!

What's in it for you?

- ❑ Graduation-17 on the ACT = proficient
- ❑ .5 elective credit for meeting the College Readiness Benchmarks
 - ✓ English 18
 - ✓ Math 22
 - ✓ Reading 22
 - ✓ Science 23



Colleges **require** ACT or SAT for admission.

A 22 ACT and 3.0 GPA = \$1200 at CMU

A 22 ACT and 3.0 GPA = \$1500 at Western State

A 27 ACT and 3.5 GPA = \$2500 at CMU

A 28 ACT and 3.0 GPA = \$2000 at Western State



English Section

75 questions, 45 minutes

PUNCTUATION

GRAMMAR & USAGE

SENTENCE STRUCTURE

Usage and Mechanics

○ Punctuation

- Internal and end of sentence punctuation
- Relationship of punctuation to meaning

○ Grammar and Usage

- Subject verb agreement
- Pronoun antecedent agreement
- Pronoun case
- Verb formation
- Correct use of modifiers

○ Sentence Structure

- Clauses
- Modifiers
- Construction



Rhetorical Skills

○ Strategy

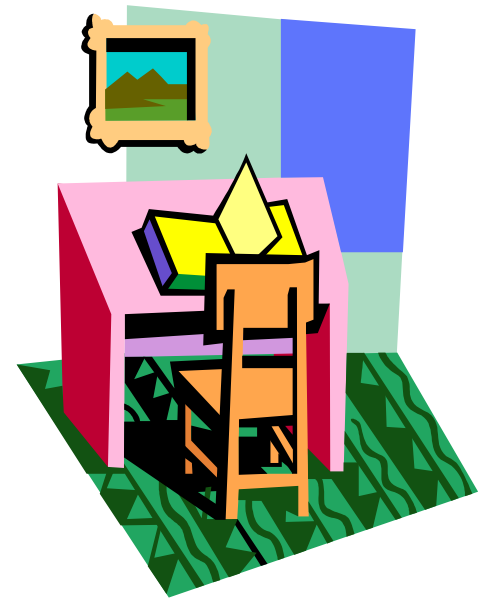
- Expressions appropriate to audience and purpose
- Judging the effect of revision
- Effective openings, transitions, closings

○ Organization

- Relevance of statements in context
- Order, coherence, unity

○ Style

- Precise word choice
- Maintaining style and tone
- Avoiding ambiguity, wordiness, redundancy



QUALIFIERS



- Eliminate extreme answers—they're nearly always incorrect.

**Never, everyone,
no one, always, all,
none, only**

Tips: Pace yourself

- Spend **1 to 1.5 minutes** skimming through each passage before responding to the questions, then you will have **30 seconds** to answer each question.



Time management strategies

- First, answer all the questions you know.
- Next, make informed guesses.
- Finally, you can “blind” guess
- **It is always better to guess on the ACT than leave questions blank.**



Note the differences in the answer choices

- Questions will involve more than one aspect of writing.
- Be careful not to select an answer that corrects one error and causes another.
- Don't be afraid of "NO CHANGE" as an answer. **One in four correct answers are "NO CHANGE."**



The Reading Section- 35 minutes

The test always has:

- Scrambled difficulty
- 40 questions (10 for each of 4 passages)
- The passages are always in this order
 1. Fiction
 2. Social Science
 3. Humanities
 4. Natural science

Know the test and your strengths!

Passage 1 and 3 will ask about:

- Theme
- Inference
- Point of view
- Mood
- Vocabulary in context
- Arguments for the author's statement

Passage 2 and 4 will ask about:

- Details
- Main idea
- Inference
- Supporting details
- Drawing conclusions

Don't fall asleep at the wheel

- This test is meant to be challenging.
- Don't relax into a comfortable reading pace.
- Spend the time practicing test questions and finding inferences.

Mathematics Section

60-questions in 60-minutes

designed to measure the mathematical skills students have typically acquired in courses taken by the end of **11th grade**

**TI – 83's and TI – 84's allowed
InSpire 84 Faceplate ONLY**

General Tips

- Answer the easy questions first
- Use logic on the more difficult questions
- Answer every question!
- Review your work
- Be precise
- Erase completely

Test Tip: **Watch your Time!**

- If you run out of time, use the last three minutes to bubble
- If you finish early, go back to difficult problems and check your work
- Circle questions you want to come back to

Pre-Algebra (23%) 14 questions

- basic operations using whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and integers
- place value
- square roots and approximations
- Exponents
- scientific notation
- Factors
- ratio, proportion, and percent
- linear equations in one variable
- absolute value and ordering numbers by value
- elementary counting techniques and simple probability
- data collection, representation, and interpretation
- simple descriptive statistics.

Elementary Algebra

(17%)10 questions

- properties of exponents and square roots
- evaluation of algebraic expressions through substitution
- using variables to express functional relationships
- understanding algebraic operations
- solution of quadratic equations by factoring.

Intermediate Algebra (15%) 9 questions

- understanding of the quadratic formula
- rational and radical expressions
- absolute value equations and inequalities
- sequences and patterns
- systems of equations
- quadratic inequalities
- Functions
- Modeling
- Matrices
- roots of polynomials
- complex numbers

Coordinate Geometry

(15%) 9 questions

- graphing and the relations between equations and graphs, including points, lines, polynomials, circles, and other curves
- graphing inequalities
- Slope
- parallel and perpendicular lines
- Distance
- Midpoints
- conics

Plane Geometry

(23%)14 questions

- properties and relations of plane figures, including angles and relations among perpendicular and parallel lines
- properties of circles, triangles, rectangles, parallelograms, and trapezoids
- transformations
- the concept of proof and proof techniques
- Volume
- applications of geometry to three dimensions.

Trigonometry

(7%) 4 questions

- trigonometric relations in right triangles
- values and properties of trigonometric functions
- graphing trigonometric functions
- modeling using trigonometric functions
- use of trigonometric identities
- solving trigonometric equations.

Science Reasoning Section

- 40 questions-35 minutes
- Data representations like graphs, tables, other schematics
- Research Summaries of several related experiments
- Conflicting viewpoints containing alternative interpretations of related hypotheses or views that are inconsistent with each other

General ACT Strategies

- Only one correct answer
- No trick questions
- No pattern of correct answers
- All choices equally likely
- Item difficulty is random
- Write, underline, and annotate in test booklet
- You can improve with practice



Test Preparation Resources

- ❑ **Take a challenging course load**
- ❑ ACT online-see your Comp 11 teacher for your log in information
- ❑ ACTstudent.org to sign up for the question of the day
- ❑ Use Naviance to check the requirements of the colleges you want to attend to determine their requirements

Using your score report to help you do better when you retest

- ❑ You will get your scores in the mail about 8 weeks after testing and ACT will send GJHS your scores.
- ❑ Use your score report to determine your weak areas and focus on overcoming those weaknesses by:
 - ❑ Using ACT online-see your Comp 11 teacher for log in information
 - ❑ Talk to your teacher(s) for the subject(s) you need to improve in for extra support or tutoring
 - ❑ Take your score report with you to see your counselor for other tips
- ❑ **If you want to re-take the ACT, go to ACTstudent.org to find out dates and register (\$38).**