

## Tips for Taking the ACT

- **Prepare your backpack the night before:** This assures you that you have everything you need for the test and keeps you calm in the morning by having everything nicely organized.
  - If you are driving to the test, make sure your car keys are in a location that is easy to find.
- **Memorize the directions BEFORE TEST DAY!** (See below). During the test, you won't get extra time to read the directions, so if you take 5 minutes to figure out what to do, that's 5 fewer minutes you'll have to get points.
- Read each question carefully. A math diagram may show an  $x$  on the side of a triangle, but ask for perimeter.
- Pace yourself—don't spend too much time on a single passage or question.
- Use a soft lead No. 2 pencil with a good eraser. Do not use a mechanical pencil or ink pen.
- Answer the easy questions first; then go back and answer the more difficult ones if you have time remaining.
- On difficult questions, eliminate as many incorrect answers as you can, then make an educated guess.
- **Answer every question. There is no penalty for guessing.**
- Pay attention to the announcement of five minutes remaining on each test. Go back to questions you narrowed down earlier, and guess from the remaining choices. Then just pick a letter (NOT C) to fill in for any remaining questions.
  - **Letter of the Day** As counter-intuitive as it may seem, you will pick up more points consistently if you always guess the same letter. Contrary to popular opinion, you won't get more questions right if you guess (C) rather than any other choice (in fact, **C seems to be the least likely answer** on the last (hardest) questions of the test). Go crazy, guess (A) or (F) on the next ACT you take. Just be consistent
    - **Exception:** "cannot be determined from the information given" is virtually never the answer for the math section.
- If you complete a test before time is called, recheck your work on that section of the test.
- Mark your answers properly. Erase any mark completely and cleanly without smudging.
- Do not mark or alter any ovals on a test or continue writing the essay after time has been called. If you do, you will be kicked out and your answer document will **not** be scored.

**Test Booklet Instructions** The following instructions are printed on the cover of the multiple-choice test booklet. The instructions for the ACT Writing Test are different.

- This booklet contains tests in English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. These tests measure skills and abilities highly related to high school course work and success in college. **CALCULATORS MAY BE USED ON THE MATHEMATICS TEST ONLY.**
- The questions in each test are numbered, and the suggested answers for each question are lettered. On the answer document, the rows of ovals are numbered to match the questions, and the ovals in each row are lettered to correspond to the suggested answers.
- For each question, first decide which answer is best. Next, locate on the answer document the row of ovals numbered the same as the question. Then, locate the oval in that row lettered the same as your answer. Finally, fill in the oval completely. Use a soft lead pencil and make your marks heavy and black. **DO NOT USE INK OR A MECHANICAL PENCIL.**
- Mark only one answer to each question. If you change your mind about an answer, erase your first mark thoroughly before marking your new answer. For each question, make certain that you mark in the row of ovals with the same number as the question.
- Only responses marked on your answer document will be scored. Your score on each test will be based only on the number of questions you answer correctly during the time allowed for that test. You will NOT be penalized for guessing. **IT IS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE TO ANSWER EVERY QUESTION EVEN IF YOU MUST GUESS.**
- You may work on each test ONLY when your test supervisor tells you to do so. If you finish a test before time is called for that test, you should use the time remaining to reconsider questions you are uncertain about in that test. You may NOT look back to a test on which time has already been called, and you may NOT go ahead to another test. To do so will disqualify you from the examination.
- Lay your pencil down immediately when time is called at the end of each test. You may NOT for any reason fill in or alter ovals for a test after time is called for that test. To do so will disqualify you from the examination.
- Do not fold or tear the pages of your test booklet.

**DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO.**