



# NEW FIRSTS FOR STUDENTS TAKING THE ACT® TEST

## Every student deserves the **BEST** chance to succeed.

That's why we're providing new options for the ACT® test beginning with the **September 2020** test. The options are designed to give students more choices, a better experience, and provide greater confidence that their test scores reflect their overall academic achievement and potential.

While our mission of helping people achieve education and workplace success stays the same, HOW we help people achieve that success continues to evolve. Many factors influence our ongoing evolution, from technology and user experience to new market needs. The ACT continues to be **driven by research and the education and career ecosystem in which today's students live.**

The ACT can have a significant impact on people's lives. Because of this, we work hard to avoid unnecessary risks that might come with large-scale changes or total product reinvention by conducting thorough research around the product's reporting, delivery methods, and technology. Research is continuously informing the content tested on the ACT to ensure it matches what is being taught in the high school classroom and what is needed to be successful in the first year of college courses. Data direct us toward what is most needed and requested by our customers.

**Today's students are deserving of fresh approaches that better match the way they learn and measure their progress, and to help them navigate through their personal journeys to success.** As leaders in the industry, it is our charge to provide students with the appropriate tools in the ways that are most relevant to them while remaining the most reputable and trusted college admissions test.

### A LEGACY OF FIRSTS



- 1<sup>ST</sup>** college entrance exam to focus on what students learn in school
- 1<sup>ST</sup>** to define college & career readiness standards
- 1<sup>ST</sup>** to define college & career readiness benchmarks
- 1<sup>ST</sup>** and only college entrance exam to test science independently
- 1<sup>ST</sup>** to allow guessing
- 1<sup>ST</sup>** to use common vocabulary words
- 1<sup>ST</sup>** to allow calculators during the entire math test
- 1<sup>ST</sup>** to offer the writing test as optional
- 1<sup>ST</sup>** to offer a college entrance exam on a school day
- 1<sup>ST</sup>** to report on the condition of education at the aggregated state level
- 1<sup>ST</sup>** college entrance exam to be offered as a required state test

1<sup>ST</sup>

## to Offer SECTION RETESTING

Students bring their “A-game” to each section test

- If students wish to retake the ACT, it's no longer an all-or-nothing option. Students may retake one or more section or subject tests to increase their individual section scores and their composite superscore. Section retests allow a greater level of focus while more closely aligning to typical college exams. Students will still have the option to retake all sections of the ACT at one time.

**“[ACT Section Retesting] plays to the student’s strengths. That seems like a really fair way to go about things.”**

–Parent of high school student



### ENGLISH Practice Test Questions

45 Minutes | 75 Questions

**MEASURES:** Understanding of English, production of writing, and knowledge of language skills.

### MATH Practice Test Questions

60 Minutes | 60 Questions

**MEASURES:** The mathematical skills typically acquired in courses up to the beginning of grade 12.

### READING Practice Test Questions

35 Minutes | 40 Questions

**MEASURES:** Reading comprehension commonly encountered in first-year college curricula.

### SCIENCE Practice Test Questions

35 Minutes | 40 Questions

**MEASURES:** The interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problem solving skills required in biology, chemistry, Earth/space sciences, and physics.

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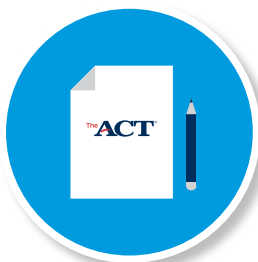
## to Offer FASTER RESULTS with ONLINE TESTING

The choice is the student’s—take the ACT online or on paper

- With online testing, students can test in an environment that may be more familiar and more comfortable to the digital-native generation.
- Students who choose online testing will get their **multiple-choice test results back as soon as two business days.**

**“Faster Results takes away a lot of the waiting and the anxiety.”**

–Student planning to attend college



Results in **2-8 weeks**

or



Results in as soon as **2 business days**

**60% of students surveyed want their ACT scores faster!**

(ACT Research April 2019)

ACT started testing on computers in 2013. That was only after multiple years of studies, including comparability studies in operational testing environments where participating students received college-reportable scores.

Schools who offer the ACT to their students as part of the school day program have had the option to test the ACT online since 2016. International students have been taking the ACT test online since September 2018.

**1<sup>ST</sup>**

## to Report a **SUPERSCORE**

Students put their best scores forward

- The ACT score reports will now include a superscore. A Superscore is the average of the four best section scores from each of the student's ACT test attempts.
- The number of students retaking the ACT has increased over time.<sup>1</sup> Superscores truly reflect the student's proficiency in the subject matter, and are proven to be a more accurate predictor of first-year college grades compared to other score evaluation methods.<sup>1</sup>

**"I think, from their standpoint, that [superscoring] would be a relief to the students."**

—Higher Ed Professional

<sup>1</sup> ACT Research. Does Superscoring Increase Subgroup Differences?

TEST DATE	ENGLISH SCORE	MATH SCORE	READING SCORE	SCIENCE SCORE	COMPOSITE SCORE
APRIL	19	20	23	21	21
JUNE	22	22	20	22	22
SEPTEMBER	20	23			21

TEST DATE	BEST ENGLISH SCORE	BEST MATH SCORE	BEST READING SCORE	BEST SCIENCE SCORE	SUPERSCORE
COMBINED	22	23	23	22	23

## What's Staying the **SAME**

ACT has always been rooted in service to students

1. The ACT is the same trusted college admissions test institutions have relied on to help students achieve success for the past 60 years.
2. The ACT has always been and will continue to be reflective of evidence.
3. The validated ACT<sup>®</sup> College and Career Readiness Standards continue to be the backbone of our assessment systems. They describe the essential skills and knowledge students need to succeed in college and career. The standards provide clear meaning to ACT test scores and serve as a link between what students have learned and what they need to learn next.
4. The ACT test has always measured all students' knowledge fairly and equally and will continue to do just that.
5. The ACT<sup>®</sup> College and Career Readiness Benchmarks set the bar for excellence. These subject-area benchmarks represent the level of achievement required for students to have a successful academic experience.
6. The ACT<sup>®</sup> Holistic Framework<sup>™</sup> for College and Career Readiness provides a well-rounded description of the knowledge and skills individuals need to know (and be able to do) to succeed as they progress from school to career.
7. All students will continue to have free ACT<sup>®</sup> Test Prep with ACT<sup>®</sup> Academy<sup>™</sup>.
8. ACT<sup>®</sup> Aspire<sup>®</sup>, PreACT<sup>®</sup>, and The ACT are an aligned, coherent assessment system on a vertical scale and anchored in the empirically derived ACT College and Career Readiness Benchmarks and ACT College and Career Readiness Standards.
9. ACT helps remove barriers in the college admissions process for students from underserved backgrounds. Fee waivers, free test preparation, and high-quality learning materials for all through ACT Academy, and free score reports for students who register with a fee waiver will continue.

**"ACT should emphasize particularly the educational development of the student for purposes of guidance and counseling, as well as enable the colleges to select as they needed."**

—ACT founder, E. F. Lindquist

