

WHAT SHOULD I DO THE WEEK BEFORE THE TEST?

- If you have not taken a practice test, make sure to get a **PRACTICE TEST** in, and at least another two practice runs for your weakest sections.

- Check your scores and try to figure out why you are missing easy questions. How can you change the way you test so that you catch the details or don't get stuck?

- Get **GOOD SLEEP**. Especially on Wednesday and Thursday as those nights affect your Saturday AM.

- **EAT WELL**, especially the night before and the morning of the test.

- Try doing a practice passage (5-10 questions from an easier part of the test) to **WARM UP** if you feel groggy.

- **MAKE SURE** you have your Registration, ID, Pencils, Calculator(s), Food, Timing Watch, and you feel mentally sharp.

- There is **ALWAYS TIME TO BREATHE**.

SHOULD I TAKE THE SAT OR THE ACT?

| | TAKE THE SAT | TAKE EITHER | TAKE THE ACT |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|
| ENGLISH (Grammar) | Your Essays get lots of punctuation and comma corrections. | | Excellent Punctuation Skills You can easily follow short stories. |
| READING | You're a slower, more careful reader. | You know when to skim over a bunch of useless details in the reading. | You're a fast reader. You can get the main argument reading about half. |
| | You know how to find evidence in charts/graphs to support your arguments. | | You're a quick hunter of details. |
| MATH | You LOVE Algebra two, especially word problems. | | You always quickly double-check your math. |
| | When you set up word problems, you check EVERY detail. | You're a calculator jockey and can use all those fancy programs. | You like applied geometry like woodworking. |
| GRAPHS/CHARTS (Science) | You could create a custom chart from any page of your history book. | | AP Science Student You can quickly get the main message from glancing at a chart or graph. |
| TESTING STRATEGIES | Strong in all test areas. | Good at POE (Eliminating) | Weak in one area but strong in the others. |
| | You like to take breaks when thinking hard. | Detail checker. | Good time sense. High academic endurance; Multiple AP Classes. |

WHAT ARE SOME GOOD, BASIC TEST STRATEGIES?

- **POE (Process of Elimination)**: Whenever you get stuck, try to cross off TWO clearly impossible answers. Then compare the remaining two answers.

- **PACE (Don't Stop Moving)**: Keep up a steady pace. Don't go fast then slow then fast then slow. Look at the clock or use a watch. Every section is designed with mud pit questions every now and then to make you run over time. Save those for last.

- **COMMON SENSE**: 80% of the ACT science and reading questions are 8th grade level knowledge. If you get stuck and can't find any evidence, ask yourself whether there is an obvious 8th grade answer.

- **S4L (Save for Later)**: Save a question you're stuck on for last and take your **BEST SHOT**.
ENGLISH: Save 1-2 per passage.
READING: Save 1-2 per passage, and take your best shot at the end of the passage.
MATH: Save at least 2-4 per test and go back if extra time.
SCIENCE: Save 1-2 per passage in the last 3 passages (ACT).