

Tips for Students Taking the ACT/SAT

1. Register Early

The earlier you sign up to take the ACT or SAT, the more likely you are to get a seat in your preferred testing location. This also gives you plenty of time for test preparation.

2. Take an official practice test before you start studying

Do a practice run to get a feel for what you will experience on the actual test day. Make it as realistic as possible—quiet environment, only take breaks when you would on test day, and set a timer for the corresponding time allotted per test section.

3. Create a study schedule based on your needs

After you have taken a practice test, do a bit of a self-assessment. In which areas could you improve? Create a reasonable practice schedule. Remember, it is better to study for 15-30 minutes multiple days a week than for 4 hours on Sunday evening.

4. Use free resources to help with studying

There are so many test prep resources available. The earlier you start studying, the more options you have available to you. Many test prep resources are free of charge, but there are even more if you are willing to pay the price.

5. Take at least two more timed practice tests before test day

After you have studied a bit, take a stab at a few more practice tests. The more familiar you are with the format, the less surprises there will be come test day.

6. Get ready the night before, get a good night's sleep and eat breakfast the morning of test day

On the morning of the test, you will inevitably be nervous and you don't want to forget something at the last minute while you're distracted by your nerves.

Here is a checklist to ensure that this doesn't happen:

- Admission ticket
- Photo ID
- #2 pencils and eraser
- Calculator with fresh batteries
- Sweater or hoodie
- Water bottle and snacks

7. Arrive early so you have time to relax and breathe

Getting to the test should be the least of your concerns.

8. Fill in all the bubbles

When you know time is almost up, or when you are given a 5 minute warning, fill in the rest of the bubbles for that test section. Then, as you continue working with the remaining time, erase and correct your answers. There are no penalties for wrong answers, the only influence on your score is number of questions you answer correctly. So you are better off filling in all of the bubbles towards the end of the test, even if you're guessing. It is better to have a bubble filled in than empty, even if it is wrong!

<https://www.collegeraptor.com/getting-in/articles/act-sat/12-tips-students-taking-actsat/>

<https://www.collegecovered.com/getting-into-college/sat-act/7-ways-to-prepare-for-the-sat-and-act/>