The 2019 ACT (FEB. 20)

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS TAKEN FROM THE WEBSITE www.act.org

To view practice tests with correct answers and explanations in each of the ACT Subject Areas, go to:

http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/english-practice-test-questions.html

English

An ACT English Test contains 75 questions to be answered in 45 minutes.

The test assesses three domains of language knowledge and skills:

- **Production of writing (29 – 32%)**
- **Knowledge of language (13 – 19%)**
- **Conventions of Standard English (51 – 56%)**

Test Tips

- Be aware of the writing style used in each passage.
- Consider the elements of writing that are included in each underlined portion of the passage. Some questions will ask you to base your decision on some specific element of writing, such as the tone or emphasis the text should convey.
- Be aware of questions with no underlined portions—that means you will be asked about a section of the passage or about the passage as a whole.
- Examine each answer choice and determine how it differs from the others. Many of the questions in the test will involve more than one aspect of writing.
- Determine the best answer. Read and consider all of the answer choices before you choose the one that best responds to the question.
- Reread the sentence, using your selected answer.

Reading

An ACT Reading Test contains 40 questions to be answered in 35 minutes.

The test assesses three domains of reading skills and comprehension:

- **Key ideas and details (55 – 60%)**
- **Craft and structure (25 – 30%)**
- **Integration of knowledge and ideas (13 – 18%)**

Test Tips

- Read the passage(s) twice: a quick read to annotate the main idea of each paragraph in the margins and underline key ideas; and a more careful reading as you answer questions.
- Read and consider all of the answer choices before you choose the one that best responds to the question.

Writing

The ACT writing test is a 40-minute essay test that measures your writing skills.

The test consists of one writing prompt that will describe a complex issue and present three different perspectives on that issue. It is a paper-and-pencil test. You will write your essay in pencil (no mechanical pencils or ink pens) on the lined pages of an answer folder that will be provided to you.

The ACT writing test complements the English and reading tests. The combined information from these tests tells postsecondary institutions about students' understanding of the conventions of standard written English and their ability to produce a direct sample of writing. **The writing test cannot be taken without first taking all four multiple-choice tests in the same session.**

The test describes an issue and provides three different perspectives on the issue. You are asked to read and consider the issue and perspectives, state your own perspective on the issue, and analyze the relationship between your perspective and at least one other perspective on the issue. Your score will not be affected by the perspective you take on the issue.

Sample Prompt:

Intelligent Machines

Many of the goods and services we depend on daily are now supplied by intelligent, automated machines rather than human beings. Robots build cars and other goods on assembly lines, where once there were human workers. Many of our phone conversations are now conducted not with people but with sophisticated technologies. We can now buy goods at a variety of stores without the help of a human cashier. Automation is generally seen as a sign of progress, but what is lost when we replace humans with machines? Given the accelerating variety and prevalence of intelligent machines, it is worth examining the implications and meaning of their presence in our lives.

Read and carefully consider these perspectives. Each suggests a particular way of thinking about the increasing presence of intelligent machines.

Perspective One	Perspective Two
Machines are good at low-skill, repetitive jobs, and at high-speed, extremely precise jobs. In both cases they work better than humans. This efficiency leads to a more prosperous and progressive world for everyone.	Intelligent machines challenge our long-standing ideas about what humans are or can be. This is good because it pushes both humans and machines toward new, unimagined possibilities.

Perspective Thee

What we lose with the replacement of people by machines is some part of our own humanity. Even our mundane daily encounters no longer require from us basic courtesy, respect, and tolerance for other people.

Test Tips

http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/writing-test-prep.html

Writing Test Scores

Taking the ACT with writing will provide you and the schools to which you have ACT report scores with additional scores. You will receive a total of five scores for this test: a single subject-level writing score reported on a range of 2-12 (a 1-6 rubric score times two readers), and four domain scores, also 2-12, that are based on an analytic scoring rubric. The subject-level score will be the rounded average of the four domain scores. The four domain scores are: Ideas and Analysis, Development and Support, Organization, and Language Use and Conventions. An image of your essay will be available to your high school and the colleges to which you have ACT report your scores from that test date.

Taking the writing test does not affect your subject area scores or your Composite score. However, without a writing test score, no English Language Arts (ELA) score will be reported.

Your essay will be evaluated based on the evidence that it provides of your ability to:

- clearly state your own perspective on the issue and analyze the relationship between your perspective and at least one other perspective
- develop and support your ideas with reasoning and examples
- organize your ideas clearly and logically
- communicate your ideas effectively in standard written English

Two trained readers will score your essay on a scale of 1-6 in each of the four writing domains. Each domain score represents the sum of the two readers' scores. If the readers' ratings disagree by more than one point, a third reader will evaluate the essay and resolve the discrepancy.

Your Writing Test score does not affect your ACT Composite Score, but you will not receive an ELA score without taking the Writing Test.

An image of your essay will be available to your high school and to colleges that you have requested your ACT Score Report be sent.

Sample Essays

You might be a little unsure of what to expect from a writing prompt and what kinds of responses score the highest. We took the guesswork out of it and created one sample prompt and six possible responses, ranging from weak to strong, that give you an idea of how to achieve your best score.

Remember that your scores for the four individual domains - ideas and analysis, development and support, organization, and language use and conventions - will be communicated on a scale of 2–12. These domain scores are derived by adding together the individual scores, on a 1–6 scale, from each of two readers.

To view a sample writing prompt and sample essays and scoring, go to:

http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/writing-sample-essays.html?page=0&chapter=0

Writing Test Scoring Rubric Overview

This analytic scoring rubric presents the standards by which your essay will be evaluated. The following rubric overview will help you to better understand the dimensions of writing that this assessment evaluates.

This task asks you to generate an essay that establishes your own perspective on a given issue and analyzes the relationship between your perspective and at least one other perspective. In evaluating your response, trained readers will use an analytic rubric that breaks the central elements of written argument into four domains: Ideas and Analysis, Development and Support, Organization, and Language Use and Conventions. As you review these domains, think about the role each plays in a written argument that accomplishes its purpose.

Ideas and Analysis—Scores in this domain reflect the ability to generate productive ideas and engage critically with multiple perspectives on the given issue. Competent writers understand the issue they are invited to address, the purpose for writing, and the audience. They generate ideas that are relevant to the situation.

Development and Support—Scores in this domain reflect the ability to discuss ideas, offer rationale, and bolster an argument. Competent writers explain and explore their ideas, discuss implications, and illustrate through examples. They help the reader understand their thinking about the issue.

Organization—Scores in this domain reflect the ability to organize ideas with clarity and purpose. Organizational choices are integral to effective writing. Competent writers arrange their essay in a way that clearly shows the relationship between ideas, and they guide the reader through their discussion.

Language Use and Conventions—Scores in this domain reflect the ability to use written language to convey arguments with clarity. Competent writers make use of the conventions of grammar, syntax, word usage, and mechanics. They are also aware of their audience and adjust the style and tone of their writing to communicate effectively.

ACT Subject Area Test Practice

In addition to practice you may be doing in your classroom, use the links provided in this packet to practice tests and explanations of answers on ACT.org. See Mrs. Matthews in the library for more information about practice sites and apps on library computers. The internet has oodles of online sites with free practice tests, such as:

https://blog.prepscholar.com/complete-official-act-practice-tests-free-links

https://www.powerscore.com/sat/help/content_practice_tests.cfm

ACT Subject Area Test Scoring Benchmarks

Information gathered from more than 200 colleges and universities was used to establish ACT Benchmarks that predict a "50% chance of achieving a B or higher" grade in college courses:

ENGLISH	**18**	**(Note: Minimum score required by DSU for CE ENGL 1010)**
MATH	**22**	
READING	**22**	
SCIENCE	**23**	