

Maximizing Your ACT Science Score

Foundation

- Regularly read college-level nonfiction articles, magazines, and books
 - **Purpose:** Build up reading speed and comprehension, which is very important for the ACT science test because of the time limitation
 - **Recommendation:** At least one hour a day
 - **Read for Speed:** Practice using your finger and forcing yourself to read/scan faster
- Take a lot of practice tests to get used to the format and timing, since the science test is unusual

Managing Time

- Circle all answers for each passage in your test booklet **first**, and then transfer them all at once (except after the 5 minute warning)
 - Since you will be skipping passages, **make sure you bubble in the correct numbers!**
 - **Purposes:** 1) Avoid bubbling mistakes; 2) Focus completely on the passage
- If you are reaching the time limit for a passage, **take your best guess/choose answers that you haven't crossed out and move on.**
 - You do not want to sacrifice too much time on one passage!

Passage Type	Timing	Steps
Data Representation (3 passages, 5 questions each)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Find and do these first<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ About 4 minutes each,○ 12 minutes for all three● Reason: 1) These are the “easiest” passages; 2) Do the same types of passages together	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read the questions first2. Go where the questions tell you to go3. Skip freely within a passage (put it into the back of your mind, and try to find the answer as you do the other questions)
Research Summary (3 passages, 6 questions each)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Find and do these next<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ About 5 minutes each,○ 15 minutes for all three○ (finish by the 27 minute mark)	Same as Data Representation passages
Conflicting Viewpoints (1 passage, 7 questions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Do this last<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ About 6 minutes● Reason: This is the hardest passage, and it is completely different	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Skim the passage first (just get a basic idea of what is being discussed)2. Go where the questions tell you to go3. Skip freely within a passage (put it into the back of your mind, and try to find the answer as you do the other questions)
Extra/Buffer Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● About 2 minutes (About 17 seconds per passage)	

Strategy

- Skip questions that will take longer to do
 - **Skipping is good/smart**—while you answer the other questions, you may find the answer to a question you skipped. Don't spend unnecessary time on one question; put it into the back of your mind as you work on other questions
 - Eliminate choices that are definitely wrong and actually **cross them out**
 - This will help you visually, especially if you skip it/come back to it
 - Do not overanalyze – the answers are usually quite simple, despite (or because of) the complex format
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