

Comparison of the Legacy and Enhanced ACT® Test

Total Test and Reporting Categories

The ACT test is changing! We are committed to continuous improvement, alignment to assessment industry best practices, and innovation to allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and have the greatest degree of success towards college admission. As part of these updates, we are changing the test blueprint. This will include changing the time allotted in each section, changing the number of items in each section, and rebalancing the proportion of items geared toward each reporting category in each section of the test. While we have not added or removed reporting categories, we have changed the percentage of items within the reporting categories for each section as shown in the tables.

Table 1. Summary of the Number of Items and Testing Time on the Legacy and Enhanced ACT by Section

The following table shows a comparison of the total number of items and testing time by section for the legacy and enhanced ACT test.

	ACT - Legacy		ACT - Enhanced	
	Items	Total Time (Min)	Items	Total Time (Min)
English	75	45	50*	35
Math	60	60	45*	50
Reading	40	35	36*	40
Science	40	35	40*	40
Writing	1	40	1	40
Core ACT Administration**	215	175	131*	125

*Number includes embedded field-test items that do not contribute to score points.
**The core administration is the shortest administration of the test and results in a college-reportable Composite Score. The core administration for the legacy ACT is English, Math, Reading, and Science. The core administration for the enhanced ACT is English, Math, and Reading.

Table 2. Comparison of the English Section (Legacy and Enhanced) Number and Percentage of Items by Reporting Category

The following table shows the comparison of reporting category items in the English section of the legacy and enhanced ACT test.

	English			
	ACT - Legacy		ACT - Enhanced	
Reporting Category	Number of Items	Percentage of Section	Number of Items	Percentage of Section
Production of Writing	22-24	29-32	15-17	38-43
Knowledge of Language	11-13	15-17	7-9	18-23
Conventions of Standard English	39-41	52-55	15-17	38-43
Total	75		50*	

*Total number includes 10 embedded field-test items that do not contribute to score points.

Table 3. Comparison of the Math Section (Legacy and Enhanced) Number and Percentage of Items by Reporting Category

The following table shows the comparison of reporting category items in the math section of the legacy and enhanced ACT test.

	Math			
	ACT - Legacy		ACT - Enhanced	
Reporting Category	Number of Items	Percentage of Section	Number of Items	Percentage of Section
Preparing for Higher Math	34-36	57-60	33	80
Number & Quantity	5-7	8-12	4-5	10-12
Algebra	7-9	12-15	7-8	17-20
Functions	7-9	12-15	7-8	17-20
Geometry	7-9	12-15	7-8	17-20
Statistics & Probability	5-7	8-12	5-6	12-15
Integrating Essential Skills	24-26	40-43	8	20
Modeling	>=12	>=20	>=8	>=20
Total	60		45*	

*Total number includes four embedded field-test items that do not contribute to score points.



Table 4. Comparison of the Reading Section (Legacy and Enhanced) Number and Percentage of Items by Reporting Category

The following table shows the comparison of reporting category items in the reading section for the legacy and enhanced ACT test.

	Reading			
	ACT - Legacy		ACT - Enhanced	
Reporting Category	Number of Items	Percentage of Section	Number of Items	Percentage of Section
Key Ideas & Details	21-24	53-60	12-14	44-52
Craft & Structure	10-12	25-30	7-9	26-33
Integration of Knowledge & Ideas	6-9	15-23	5-7	19-26
Total	40		36*	

*Total number includes nine embedded field-test items that do not contribute to score points.

Table 5. Comparison of the Science Section (Legacy and Enhanced) Number and Percentage of Items by Reporting Category

The following table shows the comparison of reporting category items in the science section of the legacy and enhanced ACT test.

	Science			
	ACT - Legacy		ACT - Enhanced	
Reporting Category	Number of Items	Percentage of Section	Number of Items	Percentage of Section
Interpretation of Data	16-20	40-50	13-17	38-50
Scientific Investigation	8-12	20-30	6-11	18-32
Evaluation of Models, Inferences, & Experimental Results	10-14	25-35	8-13	24-38
Total	40		40*	

*Total number includes six embedded field-test items that do not contribute to score points.

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