

ACT Prep Course Syllabus (2024-2025)



Instructor: Zeinab Zoghaib

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Classroom: 1015

Course Description:

This ACT prep course is designed to help students improve their performance on the ACT exam. The course covers the content areas tested on the ACT: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science, along with optional writing practice. Students will learn test-taking strategies, review key concepts, and practice with real ACT questions to build confidence and maximize their scores.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the format and structure of the ACT exam.
2. Identify strengths and areas for improvement in each test section.
3. Apply effective test-taking strategies to manage time and answer questions efficiently.
4. Master key content areas in English, Math, Reading, and Science.
5. Practice writing essays that meet ACT standards.

Required Materials:

- ACT prep book
- Access to online practice resources (ACT.org.)
- Notebook and writing utensils
- Calculator (approved models for the ACT)

Course Outline:

Week 1: Introduction and Diagnostic Test

- Overview of the ACT exam format and scoring
- Complete a full-length diagnostic test
- Review diagnostic test results and set individual goals

Week 2: English Section

- Focus on grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure
- Understanding rhetorical skills and style
- Practice exercises and strategies for improving speed and accuracy

Week 3: Mathematics Section Part 1

- Review pre-algebra and elementary algebra concepts
- Focus on intermediate algebra and coordinate geometry
- Practice solving ACT-style math problems

Week 4: Mathematics Section Part 2

- Review plane geometry and trigonometry concepts
- Test-taking strategies for the math section
- Timed practice tests to improve pacing

Week 5: Reading Section

- Strategies for reading comprehension and analysis
- Identifying main ideas and supporting details
- Practice with prose fiction, social science, humanities, and natural science passages

Week 6: Science Section

- Understanding scientific reasoning and data interpretation
- Analyzing research summaries, data representation, and conflicting viewpoints
- Practice with science section questions and strategies for improving efficiency

Week 7: Writing Section (Optional)

- Understanding the ACT writing prompt and rubric
- Strategies for planning and organizing an essay
- Practice writing and reviewing sample essays

Week 8: Review and Practice Tests

- Comprehensive review of all sections
- Strategies for managing test anxiety and stress
- Complete full-length practice tests and review results

Evaluation and Grading:

- Participation and Homework: 20%
- Weekly Quizzes: 20%
- Practice Tests: 40%

- Final Reflection and Goal Setting: 20%

Classroom Policies:

- Attendance and punctuality are essential for success.
- Active participation and respectful collaboration are expected.
- Assignments must be completed on time unless excused by the instructor.
- Academic honesty is required.

Additional Resources:

- Online practice tests and question banks
- Workshops or tutoring sessions for additional support
- ACT.org for official practice materials and updates

For the Science and Reading Sections of the ACT

Course Description:

This course focuses on preparing students for the Science and Reading sections of the ACT exam. Students will learn strategies for analyzing scientific data, interpreting experiments, understanding research summaries, and improving reading comprehension across various genres. The course includes practice questions, timed exercises, and strategies to enhance test-taking efficiency.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the format and question types of the ACT Science and Reading sections.
2. Analyze scientific data and interpret experiments effectively.
3. Develop strategies for understanding complex texts and improving reading comprehension.
4. Manage time effectively to complete each section within the allotted time.
5. Build confidence through practice and targeted feedback.

Required Materials:

- ACT prep book
- Access to online practice resources (ACT.org)
- Notebook and writing utensils

Course Outline:

Week 1: Introduction and Diagnostic Assessment

- Overview of the ACT Science and Reading sections
- Complete a diagnostic test to assess current skill levels
- Review results and set individual improvement goals

Week 2: Science Section - Data Representation

- Understand graphs, tables, and charts
- Strategies for interpreting scientific data
- Practice exercises on data representation questions

Week 3: Science Section - Research Summaries

- Analyze experiment design and results
- Strategies for identifying variables and controls
- Practice with research summary questions

Week 4: Science Section - Conflicting Viewpoints

- Understand scientific debates and multiple hypotheses
- Strategies for comparing and contrasting viewpoints
- Practice with conflicting viewpoints questions

Week 5: Reading Section - Overview and Strategies

- Overview of the reading section structure and question types
- General reading comprehension strategies
- Practice with time management techniques

Week 6: Reading Section - Prose Fiction and Humanities

- Strategies for understanding fiction and humanities passages
- Identifying themes, main ideas, and character analysis
- Practice with prose fiction and humanities questions

Week 7: Reading Section - Social Science and Natural Science

- Strategies for analyzing social science and natural science passages
- Identifying cause and effect, comparing ideas, and interpreting data
- Practice with social science and natural science questions

Week 8: Review and Practice Tests

- Comprehensive review of science and reading strategies
- Full-length timed practice tests for both sections
- Review results and develop final improvement plans

Lab Safety

All students will be given a copy of their Lab Safety Contract to participate in lab activities. Students and parents should sign this copy and return it to the teacher. Students are expected to follow laboratory safety rules, and phones are prohibited.

[Lab Safety Contract English](#)

[Lab Safety Contract Spanish](#)

[Mrs. Zoghaib Academic Honesty Contract](#)

Student: I have read the policies and expectations in this syllabus and will do my best to follow them.

Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: I have read and discussed this syllabus with my child and will support them in following the policies and expectations.

Signature _____ Date: _____