

## ACT Scoring System

<http://www.actstudent.org/scores/understand/>

### Raw Score

- +1 for each right answer
- 0 for each wrong answer or blank

Raw points are converted to *scaled scores*. Each question in the English and Math sections is worth about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a point to your scaled score for that section. Each question in the Reading and Science sections is worth about a point to your scaled score for that section.

### Guessing

There is no penalty for wrong answers, so never leave a question blank. Fill in blanks at the end of each passage, and with 2-3 minutes to go on each section to ensure you do so without any errors. Then, go back to what you were doing.

### The Tryout Section

Following the Science section, standard-time testers will receive a 20-minute Tryout Section. This section does NOT count towards your score. ACT uses this section to try out potential future question types and new material on real students. Unfortunately, there is no way around this section. My advice is to try to get these questions right, because zoning out for 20 minutes isn't going to help you be ready for the essay. But don't try too hard. Think of yourself as an athlete staying loose on the sidelines until you get back in the game.

### Scaled Scores

- **Test Scores, out of 36:** Each of the five tests is scored on a 1-36 scale.
- **Composite Score, out of 36:** the rounded average of English, Math, Reading, and Science. It does not include the Writing score.
- **Writing Score, out of 12:** The average of the four "domain scores" listed below.
- **Writing Domain Scores, out of 12:** Two readers each grade four separate domains — Ideas and Analysis, Development and Support, Organization, and Language Use — on a 1-6 scale, so scores for each domain range from 2-12.
- **ELA, out of 36:** English-Language Arts, the average of English, Reading, and Writing.
- **STEM, out of 36:** the average of your Math and Science scores.

Colleges that require the Writing section may have varying systems for incorporating it into your score. See the college, university, or system's website for more information.