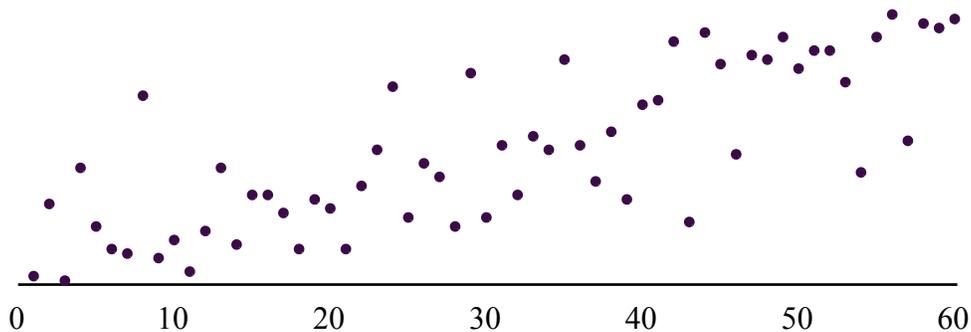


## ACT: Approaching the Math Test

[Math on actstudent.org](http://math.on.actstudent.org)

The Math test includes 60 multiple-choice questions. Standard-time students have 60 minutes. Most students find this section very difficult to finish on time.

The most important characteristic of the Math test is that questions are arranged *roughly* in order of difficulty, as shown in this example scatterplot:



Does the test get harder as it goes along? Yes; more of the easier questions are at the beginning and more of the hard questions are at the end. Questions 1-10 as a group are easier than 11-20 as a group, which are easier than 21-30 as a group, and so on. However — you cannot use order of difficulty to determine the difficulty of one specific question at any point in the test.

This has three consequences:

1. You cannot make assumptions about a question's actual level of difficulty.
2. You must avoid getting stuck on a hard question early in the test.
3. You must not miss out on easy questions towards the end of the test.

### ***How should you do the ACT Math Test?***

- **First 30-45 minutes:** Go through the entire section. Answer questions you know you can answer. Circle questions you think you could answer, but not quite as easily.
- **Next 15-20 minutes:** Go back to questions that you circled and try to answer them. This is a great chance to use your backup strategies.
- **3 minutes to go:** Fill in empty bubbles now. Do not try to rush it with 10 seconds to go. Then go back to what you were doing.