



The Free School

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**Free official exam preparation  
resources for the ACT examination**

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**Objective**

This document provides an inventory of free test preparation resources and exam practice materials that aim to assist instructors and those who plan to sit the American College Testing (ACT) examination.

**Discussion**

The ACT examination is developed and administered by ACT, Inc. The home page of this not-for-profit organization is at:

<http://www.act.org/>

Around half of the free (open-access) official ACT exam practice and test preparation materials are available on the subpages of the web address shown above.

## **Background**

There are thousands of open-access (free) and commercial ACT exam preparation resources available on the internet and via other outlets such as bookstores. The Free School classifies these materials in four ways, as shown in the table below.

### **ACT Exam Preparation Resources**

<p><b>1. ACT official publications:</b> <b>Free practice materials.</b></p>	<p>2. ACT official publications: Commercial practice materials.</p>
<p>3. Non-ACT sources: Free practice materials.</p>	<p>4. Non-ACT sources: Commercial practice materials.</p>

This document examines “1. ACT official publications: Free practice materials”.

This presentation does not discuss or endorse ACT exam preparation material that has been published by non-ACT sources. The Free School does not promote these materials as the quality of these resources varies widely. Some of these exam preparation materials are of excellent quality as they strongly reflect the content, format and standards of the ACT examination. Some materials are poor to average quality. To varying degrees, they do not accurately reflect the content, format and standards of the ACT examination.

Those who plan to sit for an ACT exam should only consult unofficial exam preparation materials if they have access to a suitably qualified and experienced ACT tutor who can review the appropriateness of these materials on a case-by-case basis.

### **Classification**

The Free School identifies seven main types of open-access ACT exam preparation and exam practice resources. These include free materials that offer:

1. General information about the ACT
2. Scoring system
3. Technical advice
4. Sample tests
5. Education and career planning tool
6. Resources published by an endorsed business partner (Kaplan)
7. Media announcements
8. Official ACT Inc. annual handbooks dated prior to 2016/2017 (with exam questions and answers) published only by third parties on their websites.

The remainder of this document provides details about where members of the public can access each of these seven official exam preparation materials for free-of-charge.

## **ACT Officially endorsed materials on YouTube**

Kaplan is an official business partner of ACT. Kaplan's official YouTube account combines ACT and SAT resources. As at 14 January 2017, Kaplan's official YouTube account contains 71 videos. Around half of these resources relate to the ACT exam.

### **About the ACT: General information**

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/training-and-resources.html>

Preparing for the ACT 2016/2017 [64 page booklet]

<http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/Preparing-for-the-ACT.pdf>

8 Tools to help you prepare for the ACT

<http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/ACT-TestPrep-infographic.pdf>

Technical manual [142 pages]

[http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/ACT\\_Technical\\_Manual.pdf](http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/ACT_Technical_Manual.pdf)

Free ACT tips texted to your phone [this website is endorsed by the ACT]

<https://bettermakeroom.org/up-next>

## Scoring system

Understanding your scores

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/your-scores.html>

Four things to know about 2016-2017 ACT score reports

<http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/act-testreport-infographic-r4.pdf>

Various sample score reports (college, high school) are available at:

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/training-and-resources.html>

Sample student score report

[http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/201617\\_StudentReport\\_withWrite\\_sampledata.pdf](http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/201617_StudentReport_withWrite_sampledata.pdf)

Sample high school report

[http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/2016-17\\_HS\\_Rpt\\_sample\\_data.pdf](http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/2016-17_HS_Rpt_sample_data.pdf)

Sample college report

[http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/2016-17\\_College\\_Rpt\\_sample\\_data.pdf](http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/2016-17_College_Rpt_sample_data.pdf)

## Technical advice by exam question section

- General test tips
- Multiple choice tips
- Calculator tips
- Writing tips

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation.html>

## Sample tests

### English section

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/english-practice-test-questions.html?page=0&chapter=0>

### Math

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/math-practice-test-questions.html?page=0&chapter=0>

### Reading

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/reading-practice-test-questions.html>

### Science

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/science-practice-test-questions.html>

## Writing

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/writing-sample-essays.html>

## Education and career planning tool

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/act-profile/about-act-profile.html>

ACT Profile: a free, mobile resource to help you learn more about yourself and the college and career paths you want to explore.

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/act-profile.html>

## Kaplan

Kaplan ACT and SAT (Kaplan is an official partner of the ACT)

Official YouTube website

<https://www.youtube.com/user/KaplanSATACT/videos>

Free live streaming events

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/newsroom/announcements/04182016/events.html>

ACT prep online live

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/act-kaplan-online-prep-live.html>

ACT practice test 1 for courses starting 12/12/08 and later

[Kaplan 70 page document](#)

ACT practice test 1 answers & explanations for courses starting 12/12/08 and later

[Kaplan 63 page answer document](#)

### **Media announcements**

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/newsroom.html>

Selected articles:

ACT Adds Free OpenEd Resources to ACT Question of the Day

“Students who answer the free, online ACT Question of the Day will now be given access to complimentary resources designed to help them improve their academic skills in the covered topic area.”

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/newsroom/act-adds-free-opened-resources-to-act-question-of-the-day.html>



ACT to Provide Supports for English Learners on the ACT exam

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/newsroom/act-to-provide-supports-for-english-learners-on-the-act-test-.html>

### **Official handbook archives: questions and answers**

In 2015, the ACT Writing Test evolved into a format that requests students to devise their own analysis and consider multiple perspectives of complex issues. Their analysis needs to discuss issues that concern logical reasoning, their personal experiences and knowledge. The time limit imposed has been increased by 10 minutes to 40 minutes.

When undertaking the revised Writing Test, students are provided with a single prompt that provides context and three perspectives on the issue that they are invited to discuss. The student is then requested by the examiner to analyze these perspectives, develop their personal opinion and explain how their opinion relates to the perspectives that they discuss. Students may choose to argue a fresh viewpoint as their own, and not defend one of the three viewpoints put forward by the examiner.

When preparing for the ACT Writing Test essay, you should refer to the 2015/16 and 2016/17 handbooks if you wish to practice tests that reflect the current exam structure.

Preparing for the ACT 2005/06 (59F)

<https://www.powerscore.com/sat/help/content/ACT%20Practice%20Tests%202005-2006.pdf>

Preparing for the ACT 2006/07

[http://www.collegeboard.com/prod\\_downloads/prof/counselors/tests/sat/2006-07-SAT-subject-tests-preparation-booklet.pdf](http://www.collegeboard.com/prod_downloads/prof/counselors/tests/sat/2006-07-SAT-subject-tests-preparation-booklet.pdf)

Preparing for the ACT 2007/08

<https://www.powerscore.com/sat/help/content/ACT%202007-2008.pdf>

Preparing for the ACT 2008/09 (61C)

[https://www.eknowledge.com/partners/autoemail/2008-09\\_ACT.pdf](https://www.eknowledge.com/partners/autoemail/2008-09_ACT.pdf)

Preparing for the ACT 2009/10

<https://www.powerscore.com/sat/help/content/ACT%202009-2010.pdf>

Preparing for the ACT 2011/12 (64E)

[http://cdn2.hubspot.net/hub/360031/file-2227156987-pdf/Documents/ACT\\_Test\\_2011-12.pdf?t=1484202657657](http://cdn2.hubspot.net/hub/360031/file-2227156987-pdf/Documents/ACT_Test_2011-12.pdf?t=1484202657657)

Preparing for the ACT 2012/13

<https://www.flvs.net/docs/default-source/full-time/resources/act-practice-test-1.pdf>

Preparing for the ACT 2013/14

<http://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/215486/Preparing%20for%20the%20ACT.pdf?t=1481927479440>

Preparing for the ACT 2014/15 (67C)

[http://cdn2.hubspot.net/hub/360031/file-2226679255-pdf/Documents/ACT\\_Test\\_2014-15.pdf?t=1484202657657](http://cdn2.hubspot.net/hub/360031/file-2226679255-pdf/Documents/ACT_Test_2014-15.pdf?t=1484202657657)

Preparing for the ACT 2015/16 (72CPRE)

<http://cty.jhu.edu/talent/docs/2014ACTPreparing.pdf>

Preparing for the ACT 2016/17

<http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/Preparing-for-the-ACT.pdf>

### **Identifying official practice exam extracts**

Extracts of official ACT exams questions and answers are available at hundreds of websites that are not managed or endorsed by ACT Inc. The reading passage at the link below is an example of an official extract from three exam preparation handbooks:

<http://www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=69769&dataid=169736&FileName=Conflicting%20Viewpoints%20Practice%20Set.pdf>

Official ACT practice tests are generally recognizable by the codes on the footer, such as the text “[ACT-59F-PRACTICE](#)” that appears on the last page resource found at the link above.

**Free library resources: books and CDs**

You may be able to read and/or borrow free official ACT Inc. exam practice and exam preparation resources from your local library. For example, Grosse Public Library in Michigan maintains some official ACT preparation books in this index range: Call number 378.166 ACT 2011.

Some libraries allow visitors to read books and listen to CDs in their library and photocopy (Xerox) some pages of the book using their photocopier.

There are some free public services on offer. For example, Mesa County (Colorado) libraries offers a free ACT test service.

<http://mesacountylibraries.org/blog/2016/08/24/get-ready-for-the-sat-or-act-by-taking-a-free-practice-test-at-the-library/>

**Questions?**

<http://chat.thefreeschool.education/>

[free@thefreeschool.education](mailto:free@thefreeschool.education)

The Free School

chat.thefreeschool.education

Board index | FAQ | Search | The team

<http://www.thefreeschool.education/finances.html>  
View unanswered posts • View active topics

FORUM	STATISTICS	LAST POST
 <b>Welcome</b>	Topics: 5 Posts: <b>143</b>	January 11th, 2017 Posted by edgar ↕
 <b>Ask a tutor</b>	Topics: <b>25</b> Posts: <b>71</b>	January 12th, 2017 Posted by carlos ↕
 <b>Undergraduate</b>	Topics: <b>39</b> Posts: <b>117</b>	January 11th, 2017 Posted by elbowgrease ↕

This document is updated as required. Updates, which include new resources, may be viewed at the School's webpage:

<http://www.thefreeschool.education/act.html>