

# STRATEGIC SOLVER

*Committed, Persistent, Strategic*

The substantial amount of time you can **commit** to ACT prep each week will give you a decided advantage in being well-prepared for your test day. Through **persistent** effort, you can reach far beyond your already strong foundational Math skills and grasp more advanced concepts. Your study plan will help you **strategically** target the most frequently tested English, Reading, and Science concepts to maximize your score potential.

**How to Use Your Study Plan:** Each week, the Recommended chapters cover the topics that are worth the most points on the ACT, so be sure to prioritize those items. To make your prep as efficient as possible, choose Optional items that best fit your study needs and schedule. If you fall behind or don't have 8 full weeks to study, be sure to prioritize the Recommended items. Happy prepping!



## WEEK 1

### Foundations of the ACT

Knowing what to expect on each section of the ACT will give you confidence on test day—you'll have no surprises about what types of questions you'll be asked.

During this week, you'll:

- Become comfortable with the structure of the ACT
- Learn the Kaplan Method for each test section

#### Week 1

Overall Study	English and Reading	Math	Science
<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 1:</b> Inside the ACT</li><li>❑ Explore the test maker's website and register for the ACT</li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 2:</b> The Method for ACT English</li><li>❑ <b>Chapter 15:</b> The Method for ACT Reading</li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 7:</b> The Method for ACT Math Questions</li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 22:</b> The Method for ACT Science</li></ul>
<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Practice Test C</b> (online)</li><li>❑ Review <b>Practice Test C</b></li><li>❑ <b>Online Video:</b> About the ACT</li><li>❑ <b>Chapter 27:</b> The Method for the ACT Writing Test</li></ul> <p><i>(If you're unsure about whether to take the essay on test day, check out the section Should I Write the ACT Writing Test?)</i></p>	<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Qbank:</b> 15 English questions</li><li>❑ <b>Qbank:</b> 10 Reading questions</li></ul>	<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Online Math Video: Point Builders</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Featured Video:</b> Using Your Calculator</li><li>❑ (see online resources for more Point Builder video topics)</li></ul></li></ul>	<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>QBank:</b> 6-8 Science questions</li></ul>



## WEEKS 2-4

### High-SmartPoints Topics

Let's cut right to the chase: some topics are tested on the ACT more heavily than others. Kaplan has assigned a SmartPoints number to each topic on the ACT—the higher the SmartPoints number, the more that topic is tested. That means that mastering those topics with the highest SmartPoints values has the potential to earn you a ton of points on test day.

During these weeks, you'll:

- Maximize your Math skills by mastering high-SmartPoints topics
- Lay the groundwork for success in English and Science by studying high-SmartPoints topics
- Master the foundations of strategic Reading

#### Week 2

English and Reading	Math	Science
<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 3:</b> Spotting and Fixing Errors<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ How Much Do You Know?</li></ul></li><li>Sentence Structure<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ The Basics</li><li>❑ Parenthetical Elements</li><li>❑ Commas, Dashes, and Colons</li></ul></li><li>❑ <b>Chapter 16:</b> ACT Reading Passage Strategies</li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 8:</b> Number and Quantity</li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 23:</b> Data<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ How Much Do You Know?</li><li>❑ Data Representation Passages</li><li>❑ Detail and Interpretation Questions</li></ul></li></ul>
<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Online English Videos</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Featured Video:</b> Comma Use</li><li>❑ (see online resources for more Sentence Structure video topics)</li></ul></li><li>❑ <b>QBank:</b> 10 Reading questions</li></ul>	<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Online Math Video:</b> Answer Questions about Radicals</li><li>❑ <b>QBank:</b> 5-10 Math questions</li></ul>	<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>QBank:</b> 6-8 Science questions</li></ul>

2 Month Study Plan, Most Confident in Math, More than 5 Hours a Week



### Week 3

English and Reading	Math	Science
<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 3:</b> Spotting and Fixing Errors Agreement<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Verbs</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Pronouns</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Modifiers</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Idioms</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> How Much Have You Learned?</li></ul></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 17:</b> ACT Reading Question Types</li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 9:</b> Rates, Ratios, Proportions, and Percents</li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 23:</b> Data<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Calculation and Inference Questions</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> How Much Have You Learned?</li></ul></li></ul>
<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Online Videos</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Featured English Video:</b> Pronoun Use</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Featured Reading Video:</b> Detail Questions</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> (see online resources for more Agreement and Reading video topics)</li></ul></li></ul>	<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Online Math Video:</b> Answer Ratio, Rate, and Proportions Questions</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Online Math Video:</b> Answer Questions on Percents</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>QBank:</b> 5-10 Math questions</li></ul>	<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>QBank:</b> 6-8 Science questions</li></ul>



## Week 4

English and Reading	Math	Science
<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 4:</b> Spotting and Fixing Issues</li><li>❑ <b>Chapter 18:</b> Answering ACT Reading Questions</li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 10:</b> Algebra</li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 24:</b> Experiments<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ How Much Do You Know?</li><li>❑ Research Summaries and Design Methodology Questions</li></ul></li></ul>
<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Online Videos</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Featured English Video:</b> Transitions and Flow</li><li>❑ <b>Featured Reading Video:</b> Inference Questions</li><li>❑ (see online resources for more English and Reading video topics)</li></ul></li></ul>	<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Online Math Videos: Algebra topics</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Featured Video:</b> Solve for a System of Equations</li><li>❑ (see online resources for more Algebra video topics)</li></ul></li></ul>	<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>QBank:</b> 6-8 Science questions</li></ul>



## **WEEKS 5-6**

### **Areas of Opportunity and Practice Test**

Now it's time to dig into some challenging topics. You can do this! Your goal is not to learn everything about, say, geometry or punctuation, but rather to learn the most commonly-tested ACT concepts and to familiarize yourself with questions in that category.

It's also time for some authentic practice. Taking a practice test under real test-like conditions is the best way to solidify what you've learned and to practice test-taking strategies. Plus, your results will help you make a plan for your remaining weeks until test day.

#### **Tips for Taking Practice Tests:**

Make the practice test count! Time yourself, eliminate distractions, and use your test-taking strategies (see Chapter 1), just as you would for the real test. Practice using the Methods for each test section (English, Math, Reading, and Science) on every question—even if doing so takes more time now, practicing will improve your speed so the Methods are second nature on the real test day.

After finishing the practice test, it is vital that you *review your results*. Dig into each question—think not only about why you got a question correct or incorrect but also about whether you approached the question strategically. For each question, ask yourself: What can I learn about this type of question? After reviewing, use your test results to help you plan what to study until test day.

During these weeks, you'll:

- Take a practice test
- Review the practice test
- Improve your performance on your areas of opportunity on each section of the test



## Week 5

Overall Study	English and Reading	Math	Science
<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Practice Test 1</b> (in-book) with optional essay <input type="checkbox"/> Review <b>Practice Test 1</b>	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Review chapter(s) based on practice test results	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Review chapter(s) based on practice test results	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 24:</b> Experiments <input type="checkbox"/> Synthesizing Data Questions <input type="checkbox"/> How Much Have You Learned?
	<u>Optional:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Online Reading Videos</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Featured Video:</b> Function Questions <input type="checkbox"/> (see online resources for more Reading video topics)	<u>Optional:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 11:</b> Tables, Graphs, Statistics, and Probability <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Online Math Video:</b> Answer Mean, Median, and Mode Questions <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Online Math Video:</b> Answer Probability Questions	



## Week 6

English and Reading	Math	Science
<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 19:</b> Paired Passages</li><li>❑ <b>Chapter 20:</b> Literature Passages</li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 13:</b> Geometry</li><li>❑ Review chapter(s) based on practice test results</li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Chapter 25:</b> Thinking Like a Scientist<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ How Much Do You Know?</li><li>❑ Applying Core Knowledge Questions</li><li>❑ Conflicting viewpoints Passages and Evaluating Hypotheses Questions</li><li>❑ How Much Have You Learned?</li></ul></li></ul>
<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>QBank:</b> 15 English questions</li></ul>	<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Online Math Videos: Geometry topics</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>Featured Video:</b> Answer Special Right Triangle Questions</li><li>❑ (see online resources for more Geometry video topics)</li></ul></li></ul>	<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ <b>QBank:</b> 6-8 Science questions</li></ul>





## **WEEKS 7-8**

### **Strengths Focus**

You've worked so hard! A few weeks left, but you are well-situated for success. Now things get kind of fun: take those topics you're awesome at, and get more awesome at them before test day! Celebrate your successes and take this opportunity to get even better. You'll also learn section management strategies for each section of the ACT and take one last practice test about a week before your test date. As usual, take the time to dig into your results. Finally, do some light practice leading up to the big day.

During these weeks, you'll:

- Focus on your strongest topics to build confidence for test day
- Learn section management strategies for each section of the ACT
- Take a practice test, about a week before your scheduled test day
- Do light practice until test day



**Week 7**

Overall Study	English and Reading	Math	Science
<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Chapter 28:</b> Countdown to Test Day</li> </ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Chapter 5:</b> ACT English: Timing and Section Management Strategies</li> <li>❑ <b>Chapter 21:</b> ACT Reading: Timing and Section Management Strategies</li> </ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Chapter 14:</b> ACT Math: Timing and Section Management Strategies</li> </ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Chapter 26:</b> ACT Science: Section Management, Timing, and Efficiency</li> </ul>
	<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Test Yourself:</b> ACT English</li> <li>❑ <b>Test Yourself:</b> ACT Reading</li> </ul>	<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Chapter 12:</b> Functions</li> <li>❑ <b>Online Math Video:</b> Demystifying Trigonometry</li> <li>❑ <b>Test Yourself:</b> ACT Math</li> </ul>	<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Test Yourself:</b> ACT Science</li> </ul>



## Week 8

Overall Study	English and Reading	Math	Science
<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Practice Test C</b> (online) with optional essay <input type="checkbox"/> Review <b>Practice Test C</b>	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Review strengths chapter(s) based on practice test results	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Review strengths chapter(s) based on practice test results	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Review strengths chapter(s) based on practice test results
	<u>Optional:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>QBank:</b> 15 English questions <input type="checkbox"/> <b>QBank:</b> 10 Reading questions	<u>Optional:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>QBank:</b> 5-10 Math questions <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Test Yourself:</b> ACT Math	<u>Optional:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>QBank:</b> 6-8 Science questions

Congratulations! You've put in the **committed, persistent** effort to complete your **strategic** review of the ACT, following the way of the **Strategic Solver**. Feel confident in your expert preparation!

