

# SCIENTIFIC SPECIALIST

*Swift, Decisive, Efficient*

Your time for ACT prep each week is limited, so you'll need to follow an **efficient** study plan that makes the most of it. Your study plan will help you make **swift decisions** about exactly what you'll need to study—and when. As you prepare, you'll continue to sharpen your Science skills while building a strong foundation in English, Math, and Reading.

**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 4 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
<u>Recommended:</u> <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>	<u>Recommended:</u> <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>	<u>Recommended:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Chapter 7:</b> The Method for ACT Math Questions</li> </ul>	<u>Recommended:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Chapter 22:</b> The Method for ACT Science</li> </ul>
<u>Optional:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Practice Test 1</b> (in-book)</li> <li>❑ Review <b>Practice Test 1</b></li> <li>❑ <b>Online Video:</b> About the ACT</li> <li>❑ <b>Chapter 27:</b> The Method for the ACT Writing Test <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></li> </ul>	<u>Optional:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Qbank:</b> 15 English questions</li> <li>❑ <b>Qbank:</b> 10 Reading questions</li> </ul>	<u>Optional:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Chapter 6:</b> Prerequisite Skills and Calculator Use</li> <li>❑ <b>Online Math Videos: 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> <li>❑ <b>QBank:</b> 5-10 Math questions</li> </ul>	<u>Optional:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>QBank:</b> 6-8 Science questions</li> </ul>

1 Month Study Plan, Most Confident in Science, Less than 5 Hours a Week



## WEEK 2

### 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 this week, you'll:

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

#### Week 2

English and Reading	Math	Science
<p><u>Recommended:</u> <b>Choose one or both:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 3:</b> Spotting and Fixing Errors</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 16:</b> ACT Reading Passage Strategies</li></ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u> <b>Choose one or both:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 8:</b> Number and Quantity</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 10:</b> Algebra</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"/> Data Representation Passages</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Detail and Interpretation Questions</li></ul></li></ul>
<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 17:</b> ACT Reading Question Types</li><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 English and Reading video topics)</li></ul></li></ul>	<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 9:</b> Rates, Ratios, Proportions, and Percents</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Online Math Videos</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Featured Video:</b> Answer Questions on Percents</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> (see online resources for more Number and Quantity; Rates, Ratios, and Proportions; and Algebra video topics)</li></ul></li></ul>	<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 24:</b> Experiments</li></ul> <p><b>Choose one or both:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Research Summaries and Design Methodology Questions</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Synthesizing Data Questions</li></ul>

1 Month Study Plan, Most Confident in Science, Less than 5 Hours a Week



## **WEEK 3**

### **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 study time 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 this week, 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 3

Overall Study	English and Reading	Math	Science
<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Practice Test 2</b> (in-book) with optional essay</li> <li>❑ Review <b>Practice Test 2</b></li> </ul>	<p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 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 23:</b> Data               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Calculation and Inference Questions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Chapter 4:</b> Spotting and Fixing Issues</li> <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> </ul> </li> <li>❑ (see online resources for more English and Reading video topics)</li> </ul>	<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Chapter 11:</b> Tables, Graphs, Statistics, and Probability</li> <li>❑ <b>Chapter 12:</b> Functions</li> <li>❑ <b>Online Math Videos: Statistics and Geometry topics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Featured Video:</b> Answer Special Right Triangle Questions</li> </ul> </li> <li>❑ (see online resources for more Statistics and Geometry video topics)</li> </ul>	<p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Chapter 25:</b> Thinking Like a Scientist               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Conflicting Viewpoints Passages and Evaluating Hypotheses Questions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



## **WEEK 4**

### **Strengths Focus**

You've worked so hard! There's only one week 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. Finally, do some light practice leading up to the big day.

During this week, you'll:

- Focus on your strongest topics to build confidence for test day
- Learn section management strategies for each section of the ACT
- Do light practice until test day



## Week 4

Overall Study	English and Reading	Math	Science
<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 28:</b> Countdown to Test Day	<u>Recommended:</u> <b>Choose one or both:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 5:</b> ACT English: Timing and Section Management Strategies <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 21:</b> ACT Reading: Timing and Section Management Strategies	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 14:</b> ACT Math: Timing and Section Management Strategies <input type="checkbox"/> Review strengths chapter(s) based on practice test results	<u>Recommended:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chapter 26:</b> ACT Science: Section Management, Timing, and Efficiency <input type="checkbox"/> Review strengths chapter(s) based on practice test results
	<u>Optional:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Review strengths chapter(s) based on practice test results	<u>Optional:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>QBank:</b> 5-10 Math questions	<u>Optional:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>QBank:</b> 6-8 Science questions

Congratulations! You've put in the **swift, decisive** effort to complete your **efficient** review of the ACT, following the way of the **Scientific Specialist**. Feel confident in your expert preparation!

