ACT Cheat Sheet

English:
- Timing: 9 minutes per passage
- Read EVERYTHING
- Don’t rely on “sound” except for prepositions and diction
- Predict your answer as you read the underlined parts of the passage
- 9/10 times, the the SHORTEST ANSWER IS CORRECT!
- Avoid the word “being”
- OMIT/DELETE is correct most of the time
- Avoid redundant answers!
- Independent clauses MUST be separated by a period, semicolon, or comma+FANBOYS
- Comma questions —> categorize the different parts of the sentence (independent/dependent clauses, essential/nonessential clauses) and choose the correct punctuation or placement
- When answering “question questions,” choose the most SPECIFIC and RELEVANT answer
- “If the writer were to delete _____, the essay would primarily lose _____” translates to “what does this sentence do?”

Math:
- Timing: Try to hit question #41 by the 30-minute mark
- Don’t worry about solving all of the last 10 questions- they’re hard
- If you’re stuck, try to use your calculator to “cheat” through the question, especially on graphs, logs, trig functions, complex numbers, matrices, quadratic equations
- If a geometry question is looking for a distance, use PYTHAGOREAN’S THEOREM not the distance formula
- Geometry questions —> ALWAYS DRAW A DIAGRAM IF THERE ISN’T ONE ALREADY
- Unless otherwise stated, you can assume figures are drawn to scale and “eyeball” questions if you’re stuck
- If a question has variables in the question and answers, try to assign a number to the variable and plug it back into the answers
- Remember, EVERY question is testing you on a simple math concept that you know. Don’t get wrapped up in the wording

Science:
- Timing: ~5-6 minutes per passage, 7 minutes for conflicting viewpoints
- THE QUESTIONS ARE ALWAYS EASIER THAN THEY LOOK
- Steps for every question:
  1) Circle/underline KEY WORDS AND DETAILS in the question
  2) find the key words/details in the VISUALS first
  3) If necessary, refer to the PARAGRAPHS for missing pieces
  4) Last resort: use BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE or make an EDUCATED GUESS and move on without wasting time
- Line graph questions —> draw perpendicular lines, look for intersection points, connect the axes using key numbers/labels
- Save the CONFLICTING VIEWPOINTS passage for LAST

For more help, call/text us at 949-373-5977 or email us at daniel.howard@howardtesprep.com
Good luck and happy studies!