

Howard Test Prep

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?"

Reading:

- Timing: 8.5 minutes per passage
- #1 rule: **FIND DIRECT EVIDENCE IN THE TEXT FOR EVERY ANSWER**
- You don't need to read the passage before the questions- do what feels comfortable
- Read like a third grader and keep everything surface level- this isn't an AP test
- **DON'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS-** If it's not explicitly supported in the passage it's not the answer
- If you're running out of time, skip the passage, answer the line number/vocab questions, then the simple reference questions, then the main idea questions

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!