

Sample Output — Enhanced ACT Format Coach

Filled-in run for a first-time junior and a parent reading along

Illustrative sample output for a filled-in run of this prompt. Your assistant may phrase things differently. Not official College Board (or other test-maker) material. AI = skill tutor; official practice = score truth.

Source prompt: Enhanced ACT Format Coach

Live prompts: testlessons.com/tests/act/#prompts

Scenario (What We Filled In)

First Enhanced ACT cycle, spring junior year. No recent timed composite. Exploring a ~28 target while learning current clocks (not classic 75/60 timing). Parent wants accurate section times, composite math, and a sane call on optional Science before anyone buys a course.

Sample Assistant Response

1. Executive Summary

The current ACT is the **Enhanced** product: shorter English and Math, **Reading and Science at 40 minutes** each when you sit them, and **Science optional**. Your **composite is the average of English, Math, and Reading only** (1–36 each, composite 1–36). Writing is a separate optional essay. Total core time is about **2 hours 5 minutes** before any options. Treat AI practice as a skill tutor; only official-style timed practice is score truth.

2. Format and Clocks (Current Product)

Section	Time	Questions (approx.)	In composite?
English	35 min	50 (40 scored + field)	Yes
Math	50 min	45 (41 scored + field)	Yes
Reading	40 min	36 (27 scored + field)	Yes
Science	40 min	40 (34 scored + field)	No (reported separately if taken)
Writing	optional	1 essay	No

Linear, not adaptive: Unlike the Digital SAT, the ACT does not route you into a harder Module 2. Every question in a section sits on one clock. Field-test items are embedded—do not spiral when one passage feels weird.

Calculator: Allowed on **all** Math (your handheld; know the ACT-approved list). This is **not** a Desmos/Bluebook Math clinic.

Science role: Data, experiments, conflicting viewpoints—not a biology content dump. Only sit it if colleges/programs you care about want it or you have spare hours after the core three are stable.

3. Scoring and College Context

- **Scale:** Sections 1–36; composite = mean of E+M+R (standard rounding rules on official reports).
- **No wrong-answer penalty**—educated guessing beats blanks when time is gone.
- **“Good” score** is school-specific. Check each college’s middle-50% ACT range; pair with GPA and rigor.
- **Superscoring / Science reporting:** Policies vary. Some schools want Science; many do not use it in the same way as the composite. Verify on each admissions site—do not assume “always take Science.”
- **For parents:** One full timed core practice (E+M+R) after a short format lock beats a month of random worksheets. Optional Science is a **decision**, not a default.

4. Content Map (What to Practice)

English — production of writing, knowledge of language, conventions: transitions, organization, punctuation, agreement, concision (OMIT is often a friend).

Math — pre-algebra through intro trig; word problems; when the calculator helps vs slows you.

Reading — four passage types; map → evidence; Enhanced **40 min / 36Q** pacing (not classic rush mythology alone).

Science (if YES) — figure triage, experiment design, conflicting viewpoints; skip content cram.

5. Eight-Week Prep Skeleton

Assumptions: No recent Enhanced baseline. Exploring ~28 composite. Two hour tracks.

If you have 4–6 focused hours/week

- Weeks 1–2: Format lock + miss-log tags (conceptual / process / careless / timing); first full timed **core** practice
- Weeks 3–4: Repair top two miss tags only; two timed sections/week; Science decision locked
- Weeks 5–6: Mixed timed sections; English rhetoric + Reading passage maps; Math calculator boundaries
- Weeks 7–8: Full core practice; taper new content; Test Day logistics in final 72 hours

If you have 8+ focused hours/week

- Same spine, plus a second skill block most weeks and one extra timed section checkpoint
- Still no new rabbit holes in the last week

Official cadence: At least **two** full core practices before test week—one baseline, one confirmation. AI fills days between.

6. Pitfalls

- Training classic clocks (75Q English / 60Q Math) as current truth
- Sitting Science from FOMO while composite sections leak
- Treating chat scores as official composites
- Buying a \$2k course before one honest timed baseline
- Math clinics written like Digital SAT Desmos/Bluebook procedures
- Ignoring field-test items and panicking mid-section

7. Next Step Tonight

Open the Enhanced ACT Overview prompt on TestLessons, then schedule one timed core practice this week. If colleges are undecided on Science, run **Should I Take Science?** once and lock YES/NO before adding Science drills.