

Sample Output — Should I Take ACT Science?

YES/NO/MAYBE with hours math for a realistic student

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: Should I Take ACT Science (and Writing)?

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

Scenario (What We Filled In)

Target composite 30. Latest practice E 28, M 29, R 27 (no Science sitting yet). Applying to state flagships + two engineering programs. ~6 hours/week to study, 7 weeks out. Unsure whether Science is required; saw friends always take it.

Sample Assistant Response

1. Decision: ****MAYBE → lean NO for this date**** (with a clear flip rule)

Why lean NO now

- Your composite is **E+M+R only**. Reading at 27 is the composite leak; Science practice would compete with Reading hours.
- **6 hours/week × 7 weeks ≈ 42 hours** total. A credible Science add usually wants repeated figure/viewpoints reps **after** core stability—you are not there yet on Reading.
- “Everyone takes Science” is peer FOMO, not a college list.

Flip to YES if any of these become true this week

1. Two target colleges **explicitly** want or strongly prefer Science (or a STEM program portal says so)—verify on official admissions pages, not forums.
2. You can add **+2 focused hours/week** without cutting English/Math/Reading.
3. Reading hits **29+** on a timed section and you still have 4+ weeks.

Writing: Separate optional essay. Default **NO** unless a campus requires it—confirm per school. Do not bundle Writing “while we’re at it.”

2. Hours Reallocation (If NO)

Keep ~6 h/week on composite:

| Block | Hours/week | Job | |-----|-----|-----| | Reading evidence + passage maps | 2.5 | Raise 27 → 29 band | | English rhetoric / transitions | 1.5 | Protect 28+ | | Math mixed + calculator boundary | 1.5 | Protect 29 | | Full or section timed practice | 0.5–1 | Score truth |

Do not “lightly sample” Science twice a week—that is how FOMO leaks hours.

3. If You Flip to YES (2-Week Add-On Only)

Only after flip rules fire:

- **Week A:** Figure triage + experiment passages; 3× 20-min sets; one timed Science section.
- **Week B:** Conflicting viewpoints clinic; second timed Science; stop content memorization.
- **Never** replace a core full practice with Science-only week.

4. What Science Actually Is (So You Don’t Study Biology)

- Read graphs/tables first; questions often yield without prior content.
- Track what the experiment changes vs measures.
- Viewpoints: map claim → evidence → conflict; answer from passage, not class memory.

5. Two-Week Plan Either Way

Path NO (recommended default here) Days 1–3 Reading maps; 4–5 English transitions; 6 Math; 7 timed Reading section; 8–12 repeat top miss tags; 13 full core practice; 14 review + sleep.

Path YES (only if flipped) Same core spine but swap two 45-min blocks/week to Science figure triage; one timed Science by day 10; composite full practice still on day 13.

6. Pitfalls

- Sitting Science to “look serious” while Reading is the composite bottleneck
- Using classic ACT advice that treated Science as required
- Letting a low Science score on a practice report distract you when it is not in the composite
- Starting Writing prep without a school requirement

7. Tonight

1. Check **two** real college pages for Science/Writing expectations.
2. Lock **NO** or **YES** in writing on a sticky note.
3. If NO: open Reading 4 Passages clinic + schedule a timed Reading section this week.
4. If YES: open Science Viewpoints clinic **and** keep Reading hours intact by adding time—not by stealing it.

© 2026 TestLessons.com · Regenerated with npm run pdfs:samples · Not a browser printout of the site.