

Welcome to your path to a higher SAT/PSAT, or ACT/PLAN score. The Online StudyGuide has been used by millions of students in schools across the country. It has been proven to raise scores in as little as 10 hours. So, if you're motivated to raise your score then let's get started.



Begin by choosing one of the three StudyGuide tabs at the top of your homepage. For demonstration purposes we've chosen to show screens from the StudyGuide for the ACT. Note that on the left side of your screen are links to FinalPrep for the SAT and ACT. These are for use during the final few days before test day. We'll refer back to them after you've completed the 5 steps of the program.

The Online StudyGuide is a self-paced program. It has 5 steps. You navigate the 5 steps using the tabs running left to right across the top of the screen on the blue menu bar. The green menu bar just below it contains the Getting Started page link which you are looking at, Test Taking Strategies, and My Status links. The Getting Started page simply lets you know what you'll be doing during each step and roughly how long it should take you.

TCA XAVIER UNIVERSITY A FOCUS on EXCELLENCE

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TCA Home | Tech Support | Toll Free 800-233-4728

Step 1 ACT Overview | Step 2 Take a Test | Step 3 Score and Analyze | Step 4 Review Your Skills | Step 5 Rework Your Test

ACT – Getting Started – Test Taking Strategies – Quick Test – My status for ACT

StudyGuide for the ACT

Getting Started

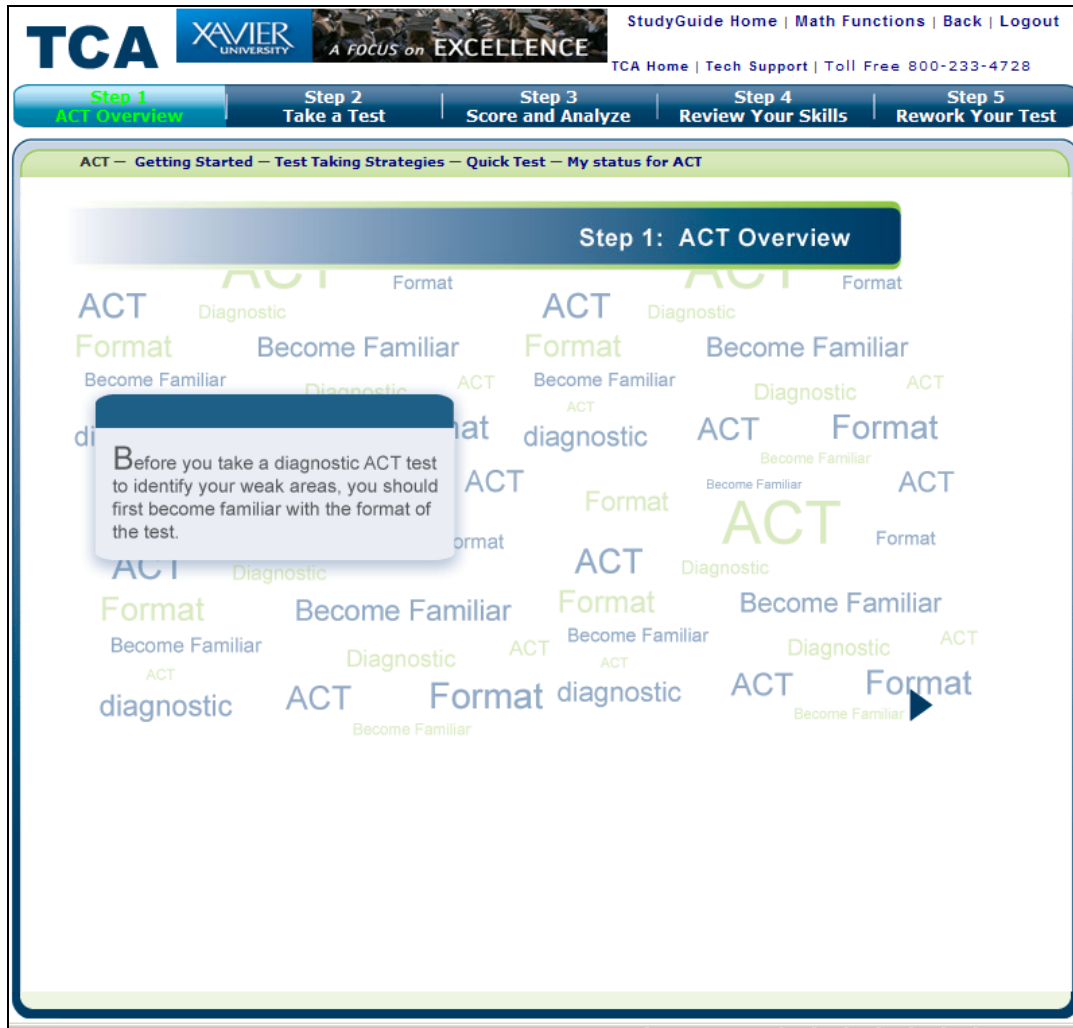
Welcome to the StudyGuide for the ACT. This program will identify your weakest ACT skills and help you raise your score with targeted lessons and quizzes. You can boost your ACT score significantly in as little as 20 hours if you follow this simple five-step plan:

- Step 1: ACT Overview**
Become familiar with the ACT format. (15 minutes)
- Step 2: Take a Test**
Take a full-length sample ACT test. (3 hours)
- Step 3: Score and Analyze**
Enter your scores into the program and receive a Skills Feedback Report which shows your weakest ACT skills. (15 minutes)
- Step 4: Review Your Skills**
Work on your weakest skills. (20+ hours)
- Step 5: Rework Your Test**
Rework every question you got wrong or left blank on the sample test you took in Step 2. (1-3 hours)

When you're ready to begin, click on the **Step 1: ACT Overview** link, located in the menu bar at the top of the page.

This program is designed to show you where your weakest skill areas are and then help you review those areas so that you can improve. Eighty percent of your time should be spent reviewing your weakest skill areas. Reviewing your weakest skill areas takes place in steps 4 and 5 of the program.

In Step 1 you learn about the test. How is it structure? How is it scored? What is tested? You'll gain even more knowledge about the test of course when you take a diagnostic in the next step. At that point you'll get familiar with the instructions of each section. This is very important because these are timed tests and so any time you can save gives you more time to work on answering questions to the best of your ability.



You should be able to complete step 1 in about 15 to 20 minutes. Remember, you can always return to this step should you want to refresh what you learned.

In Step 2 you are going to take a test. You won't necessarily be using the computer for this step. There are a number of tests to choose from. It is best to take a real test (one with actual SAT or ACT questions written by the test maker) and have someone time you so that you obey the rules for each section. The primary rules for this step are:

- Ask someone to time you so you don't spend longer than permitted on each section.
- Have your calculator available.
- Mark up your test pages just as you would on test day.
- Don't guess. You want an accurate assessment of which skills are your weakest.

The screenshot shows the TCA StudyGuide website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the TCA logo, Xavier University logo, and the tagline "A FOCUS on EXCELLENCE". To the right of the logo, there are links for "StudyGuide Home", "Math Functions", "Back", and "Logout". Below the logo, there are links for "TCA Home", "Tech Support", and "Toll Free 800-233-4728". The main navigation bar has five steps: "Step 1 ACT Overview", "Step 2 Take a Test" (highlighted in green), "Step 3 Score and Analyze", "Step 4 Review Your Skills", and "Step 5 Rework Your Test". Below the navigation bar, there is a breadcrumb trail: "ACT - Getting Started - Test Taking Strategies - Quick Test - My status for ACT". The main content area is titled "Step 2: Take a Test". It contains two text boxes on the left and a list of four checkmarks on the right. The first text box says: "The BEST way to identify your weakest skills is to let the computer analyze your answers to a practice ACT test that you've taken under realistic conditions." The second text box says: "Take one of the practice tests for the ACT supported by the Online StudyGuide. Click here for more information on where to obtain these tests." The list of checkmarks includes: "Time yourself—don't spend longer than allowed. It's helpful to have someone else time you. You will need 3 hours of uninterrupted time to complete the test in one sitting (3½ hours if you are writing the optional essay). Take a 10 minute break after section 2.", "Have your calculator available.", "Mark up your test pages (underline key words, label math figures, cross out answer choices you eliminate, etc.).", and "Don't guess on your diagnostic practice test unless you feel 'fairly certain' you know the right answer. You want an accurate assessment of which skills you do (and don't) need to review." At the bottom of the content area, there is a red text box that says: "You must use one of the StudyGuide's essay prompts and not one listed in the test booklet if you plan on using WritePrep automatic essay grader." Below this, it says: "The StudyGuide's essay prompts are available in Important Documents when logged in as a Teacher or Administrator." At the very bottom, it says: "Once you have completed the test, proceed to Step 3: Score and Analyze, located in the menu bar at the top of the page."

Click on the green box to view the location of the different diagnostic test options.

In the SAT and ACT programs Test # 1 is the current year practice test published by the test maker. You can view a PDF of the test by clicking on the link of the test name. The other tests listed are previous year tests or tests sold retail in book form. Test # 3 in the ACT program is the PLAN test. Test # 6 in each program is a simulated diagnostic test that can be taken online in Step 3 of the program. It is best to take one of the paper tests as this is how you will take the test on test day.

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ACT – Getting Started – Test Taking Strategies – Quick Test – My status for ACT

Where to Find the Tests Scored and Analyzed by the StudyGuide

The StudyGuide scores and analyzes several tests for the ACT. You may use any of these. All of the tests except test 6 are real ACT tests. All are taken with paper and pencil.

Test 6 is a specially designed test for the ACT developed for the StudyGuide. You may take it with paper and pencil or on the computer.

If you are not using the Automatic Essay Grader, your essay can be hand-scored using the [StudyGuide ACT Essay Scoring Guide](#).

You will want to take at least two ACT tests: one as a pre-test and one as a post-test after you have worked on your weakest skills.

Test #1: [Preparing for the ACT \(Form 0964E\) Booklet available in your guidance office or from ACT, Inc.](#)
Note: The current ACT practice test effective through the 2011-2012 testing year is the same test as the 2009-2010 practice test.

Test #2: Preparing for the ACT 2008-2009 Form 0661C
Note: The 2008-2009 ACT Practice test is the same as the 2007-2008 test.

Test #3: StudyGuide Practice Test for the PLAN. [Click to print this test](#) or you may take it online in Step 3; however, we strongly advise that you take it with pencil and paper. You can use the ACT answer sheet to enter your answers.

Test #4: Test on page 151 in the Real ACT Prep Guide

Test #5: Test on page 291 in the Real ACT Prep Guide

Test #6: StudyGuide Practice Test. [Click to print this test](#) or you may take it online in Step 3; however, we strongly advise that you take it with pencil and paper.

* High schools may purchase test 2 from ACT, Inc. at www.act.org.

NOTE:
Writing the essay.
[Click here for details.](#)

After you take the test click on Step 3 in the program to score and analyze your test.

In Step 3 you will enter your answers to the diagnostic test and receive a Skills Feedback Report showing you your Critical or Weakest Skill Areas. Begin by clicking on the test you took. If you took the first test(current year practice test) and you're ready to enter your answers into the computer, then click on the blue box. To take your diagnostic online simply click on Test # 6 or the green test box.

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The main content area is titled "ACT - Getting Started - Test Taking Strategies - Quick Test - My status for ACT". Below this, there is a large blue header for "Step 3: Score and Analyze". To the left of the main content, there is a text box that reads: "Now that you've finished Step 2: Take a Test, it's time to score your test and receive a list of your weakest skills (Skills Feedback Report)."

The main content area contains six numbered boxes, each representing a different test option:

1. Preparing for the ACT Form 0964E. (Blue box)
2. Preparing for the ACT (08-09) Form 0661C. (Red box)
3. PLAN 001. (Orange box)
4. Test on page 151 in the Real ACT Prep Guide. (Yellow box)
5. Test on page 291 in the Real ACT Prep Guide. (Purple box)
6. StudyGuide Practice Test for The ACT. (Green box)

At the bottom of the main content area, there are two notes:

- Note:** The 2008-2009 ACT Practice test is the same as the 2007-2008 test.
- Note:** The (04-05) ACT Practice test is the same as the 05-06 test.

After clicking on the appropriate test, you'll see the test broken out by section. Click on a section number in the left hand column. These are links that will take you to a scoring grid for each section. If you click on the Essay section and you are not enabled for automatic essay scoring you will not be able to type in or paste your essay. After scoring a section you'll immediately see your score for that section and be able to generate a Skills Feedback Report showing your weakest skills in that section.

Note: You do not have to score the sections in any order. You may score section 2 before section 1 or 3 before 2. In this way if you don't have ample time to take the test in one sitting you can take one section at a time and then score just the sections you've completed.

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Preparing for the ACT Form 0964E.

1. Click on each section number and enter your answers. If you left a question blank skip it on the answer sheet.
2. Once you've entered your answers, quickly review the answer sheet to make sure you didn't enter anything incorrectly.
3. Then click on the **Score this Section** button. You will see how many you got right, wrong, and left blank for that section.

Section	Type	Right	Wrong	Blank	Number of Tries
1	Essay				
1	English	2	13	60	1
2	Math	1	11	48	1
3	Reading	5	13	22	1
4	Science	7	13	20	1
English: 1		Math: 4	Reading: 8	Science: 10	
Composite: 6					

After you have scored your test, click on [My Status for ACT](#) to view your **Critical Skills**. (Your Critical Skills are your weakest skills as analyzed by the program based on which questions you answered incorrectly or left blank.)

If the **Automatic Essay Grader** is not enabled, click [here](#) to enter your hand-graded essay score so it can be factored in to your overall writing score.

This program gives you the ability to score each section individually, in case you want to concentrate just on one part of the ACT.

If you realize you made a mistake entering your answers, you can go back, fix the answers, and then score the section again. The program will count this as a "try."

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Step 1
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ACT — Getting Started — Test Taking Strategies — Quick Test — My status for ACT

52	<input type="radio"/> (F)	<input type="radio"/> (G)	<input type="radio"/> (H)	<input type="radio"/> (J)
53	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)
54	<input type="radio"/> (F)	<input type="radio"/> (G)	<input type="radio"/> (H)	<input type="radio"/> (J)
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56	<input type="radio"/> (F)	<input type="radio"/> (G)	<input type="radio"/> (H)	<input type="radio"/> (J)
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58	<input type="radio"/> (F)	<input type="radio"/> (G)	<input type="radio"/> (H)	<input type="radio"/> (J)
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62	<input type="radio"/> (F)	<input type="radio"/> (G)	<input type="radio"/> (H)	<input type="radio"/> (J)
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64	<input type="radio"/> (F)	<input type="radio"/> (G)	<input type="radio"/> (H)	<input type="radio"/> (J)
65	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)
66	<input type="radio"/> (F)	<input type="radio"/> (G)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> (H)	<input type="radio"/> (J)
67	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)
68	<input type="radio"/> (F)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> (G)	<input type="radio"/> (H)	<input type="radio"/> (J)
69	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)
70	<input type="radio"/> (F)	<input type="radio"/> (G)	<input type="radio"/> (H)	<input type="radio"/> (J)
71	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)
72	<input type="radio"/> (F)	<input type="radio"/> (G)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> (H)	<input type="radio"/> (J)
73	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)
74	<input type="radio"/> (F)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> (G)	<input type="radio"/> (H)	<input type="radio"/> (J)
75	<input checked="" type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)

After clicking on a section number input your answer choices by clicking the appropriate radio boxes next to each question. You may want to have someone read off your answers to you so you can score the section quicker. After inputting your answers click on the “Score this Section” button at the bottom of the page and you’ll be taken back to the previous page so you can see your score and select another section to score. Repeat this process for each section.

Once you've completed scoring your test you're ready to view your Skills Feedback Report. Click on the "My Status" link on the green menu bar just below the steps tabs at the top of the page.

On the left side of the My Status page are listed the test options. If you scored a test it will show the scores for the sections you scored. To the right will be blue buttons for your Summary Report, Detailed Report, and Essay Analysis. The Summary Report is simply the first page of the Detailed Report.

ACT — Getting Started — Test Taking Strategies — Quick Test — My status for ACT

[Click here to go Back](#)

Wright, Mary

To view your Skills Feedback Report, click on either the Summary Report (one page) or Detailed Report (section-by-section item analysis) for the test you took.

To view your Essay Score/Analysis, click on the Essay Analysis button for the test you took.

Test	English	Math	Reading	Science	Summary Report	Detailed Report	Essay not taken
Preparing for the ACT Form 0964E.	1	4	8	10	Summary Report	Detailed Report	Essay not taken
Preparing for the ACT (08-09) Form 0661C	16	14	16	12	Summary Report	Detailed Report	Essay not taken
PLAN 001	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored			
Test on page 151 in the Real ACT Prep Guide	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored			Essay not taken
Test on page 291 in the Real ACT Prep Guide	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored			Essay not taken
StudyGuide Practice Test for The ACT	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored			Essay not taken

Reworked Results
(Note: If you haven't completed Step 5 your reworked results will be the same as your original results.)

Test	English	Math	Reading	Science
Preparing for the ACT Form 0964E.	3	4	Not scored	10
Preparing for the ACT (08-09) Form 0661C	16	14	16	12
PLAN 001	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored
Test on page 151 in the Real ACT Prep Guide	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored
Test on page 291 in the Real ACT Prep Guide	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored

The bottom section of the My Status page shows you your status for Step 5. You can also view your Quiz Results by clicking on the "Quiz Results" button at the top of the screen.

The primary purpose of your Skills Feedback Report is to reveal to you your Critical or Weakest Skill areas as tested by the SAT, PSAT, ACT, or PLAN. You can print out your report by clicking on the “Print this page” button at the top left of the page. Your sectional and composite scores are listed in the gray box at the top of the report. Next is your Critical Skills Analysis. Look at the skills listed under each section of the test. These are your weakest skills in rank order. On the Skill Report below, Sentence Structure is the weakest skill area for the English Section of this ACT test.

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Step 1 ACT Overview | Step 2 Take a Test | **Step 3 Score and Analyze** | Step 4 Review Your Skills | Step 5 Rework Your Test

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Print this page

Detailed Skills Feedback Report 02/21/2011
Wright, Mary Training School
Preparing for the ACT Form 0964E.

Test Score Summary

English: 1	Math: 4	Reading: 8	Science: 10
Essay not scored			
Composite: 6			

These scaled scores range from 1 to 36. The essay is optional.

Critical Skills Analysis

Your critical skills are your WEAKEST SKILLS based on the number of questions you answered incorrectly or left blank. Work on these skills first to raise your score the most in the least amount of time! By answering just one or two more questions correctly in each critical skill the next time you take the ACT, you'll raise your score by more than 3 points.

English	Math	Reading	Science
Sentence Structure	Variables to Relationships	Reading: Idea Stated	Representing Data
Organization and Strategy	Area / Perimeter / Volume	Reading: Text Development	Inducing Principles
Diction	Number Line/Coordinate plane	Reading: Infer from Text	Comparing Theories and Experiments
Grammar and Usage	Exponents		

Below is a complete breakdown of your performance on each of the skills tested by the ACT. After you finish working on your critical skills you may want to work on additional skills to raise your score even higher.

Math	Right	Wrong	Blank	Math	Right	Wrong	Blank
M1 Variable Linear Equations	0	0	0	M31 Parallel and Perpendicular Lines	0	0	3
M2 Signed Numbers/Absolute Value	0	0	2	M32 Sequences and Series	0	2	0
M3 Averages	0	0	1	M33 Polygons	0	0	0
M4 Multiples and Factors	0	0	0	M34 Area / Perimeter / Volume	0	1	5
M5 Ordering Numbers	0	0	1	M35 Right Triangles	0	0	3
M6 Percents	0	1	1	M36 Trigonometry	0	0	3
M7 Probability	0	0	2	English			
M8 Proportions	0	0	2	Right Wrong Blank			
M9 Ratios	0	0	1	E1 Punctuation	0	3	9
M10 Roots and Powers	0	0	3	E2 Grammar and Usage	0	1	13
				F3 Sentence Structure	0	5	13

Now you need to go to Step 4 and work through the lessons and quizzes for each of your Critical Skills. If you don't have a lot of time to complete the 5 Steps of the program you can opt to just work on the first weakest skill area listed under each section.

Click on the Step 4 tab to begin your review.

When in Step 4 click on the “Critical Skills” button. The gray buttons below allow you to access all of the skill lessons and or quizzes for each section. After completing the lessons and quizzes for your Critical Skills you can go back and work on other skill areas.

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The main content area is titled "ACT — Getting Started — Test Taking Strategies — Quick Test — My status for ACT". Below this, there is a section header "Step 4: Review Your Skills".

On the left side, there is a text box with the following text: "Now that your Critical Skills have been identified, it's time to get to work on lessons and quizzes targeted to improve these weak areas and raise your score. Once you have completed the lessons and quizzes targeted to your Critical Skills, you may want to review other skills as well."

On the right side, there is a large green button that says "Click here to review your Critical Skills". Below this button, there is a smaller link that says "Click to review your Critical Skills".

Below the green button, there is a link that says "Click Here to see a list of". Below this link, there are four gray buttons arranged in a 2x2 grid: "All Math Lessons", "All English Lessons (includes Essay)", "All Reading Lessons", and "All Science Lessons".

After clicking on the “Critical Skills” button, click on the link for the test you took. The tests are listed in order.

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Your weakest skills are listed just as they are on your Skills Feedback Report, except on this page they are links to the lessons and or quizzes for each skill area. You can work in any order that you like.

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Critical Skills

Your critical skills ARE YOUR WEAKEST SKILLS based on the number of questions you answered incorrectly or left blank. Work on these skills first to raise your score the most in the least amount of time!

[Click here to go back](#)

Preparing for the ACT Form 0964E.

English	Math	Reading	Science
Sentence Structure	Variables to Relationships	Reading: Idea Stated	Representing Data
Organization and Strategy	Area / Perimeter / Volume	Reading: Text Development	Inducing Principles
Diction	Number Line / Coordinate plane	Reading: Infer from Text	Comparing Theories and Experiments
Grammar and Usage	Exponents		
	Conic Sections		
	Parallel and Perpendicular Lines		

If you do not see skills listed under a particular section then it means that you did not yet score that section or did not properly score the section. You may have forgotten to click on the “Score this section” button at the bottom of the answer grid.

To navigate through a lesson click on the blue arrow at the top right or left of the screen. At the end of each lesson are a series of quizzes. They are designed to let you know if you should move on to your next weak skill area.

The screenshot displays the TCA Student User Guide interface. At the top left, the TCA logo is shown next to the Xavier University logo and the slogan "A FOCUS on EXCELLENCE". Navigation links include "StudyGuide Home | Math Functions | Back | Logout" and "TCA Home | Tech Support | Toll Free 800-233-4728". A progress bar at the top indicates five steps: "Step 1 ACT Overview", "Step 2 Take a Test", "Step 3 Score and Analyze", "Step 4 Review Your Skills", and "Step 5 Rework Your Test". The current page is titled "ACT – Getting Started – Test Taking Strategies – Quick Test – My status for ACT". The main content area features a blue header for "SENTENCE STRUCTURE REVIEW" with a blue arrow pointing right. Below the header, two paragraphs of text are provided:

Throughout the ACT English test you will be expected to select the best of four possible ways to express the same idea. To do this, not only must you have mastered the rules that govern such matters as subject-verb agreement; you must also be able to determine whether or not the parts of a sentence work logically and clearly together.

Obviously, you will be better equipped to make that judgment if you recognize some of the more common ways that a sentence can go astray: faulty predication, incomplete constructions, dangling modifiers, imbalanced coordinates, and so forth.

You get to tries at the answer of each question in a quiz. If you answer incorrectly you'll be given a hint. If you answer a second time incorrectly or if you answer correctly you'll be given the answer and an explanation.

The screenshot displays the TCA Student User Guide interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the TCA logo, Xavier University branding, and the slogan "A FOCUS on EXCELLENCE". Navigation links include "StudyGuide Home | Math Functions | Back | Logout" and "TCA Home | Tech Support | Toll Free 800-233-4728". Below this is a step-by-step navigation menu with five tabs: "Step 1 ACT Overview", "Step 2 Take a Test", "Step 3 Score and Analyze", "Step 4 Review Your Skills", and "Step 5 Rework Your Test". The main content area shows a quiz question titled "ACT - Getting Started - Test Taking Strategies - Quick Test - My status for ACT". The question is "When first leaving the island, the changing seasons were what I missed most". The options are: A. NO CHANGE, B. leaving the island, I most mi, C. leaving the island, the chang, and D. leaving the island were the c. The correct answer is B. An "Explanation" box is open, stating: "The answer is B. As written, this sentence contains a dangling modifier. It sounds as though the changing seasons left the island. The structure must be changed to communicate what the writer intended." The interface also shows a "Right" status and a "Click to see the Directions" link.

After you've completed the lessons and quizzes for all of your weakest skill areas it's time to move on to Step 5. Click on the Step 5 tab at the top right.

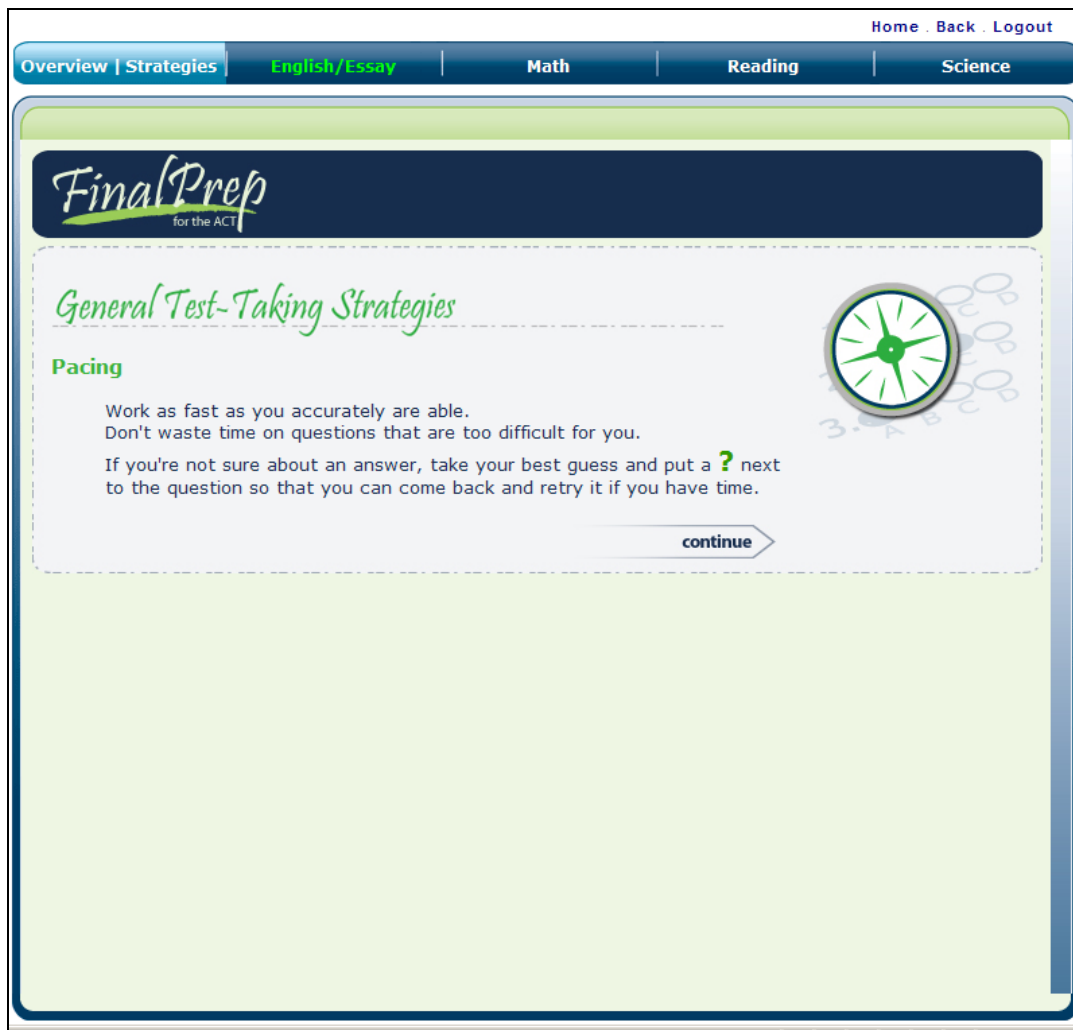
Step 5 is a lot like Step 3 except that you'll only be working on the questions you answered incorrectly on your diagnostic. Begin by clicking on the test you took. Then follow the instructions in Step 3 for completing each section.

You should have your test booklet with you for this step. Work through each question and refer to your original notes in your test booklet. Now that you've just refreshed the skill area you should see what you did wrong.

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- 1. Preparing for the ACT Form 0964E.
- 2. Preparing for the ACT (08-09) Form 0661C
- 3. PLAN 001
- 4. Test on page 151 in the Real ACT Prep Guide
- 5. Test on page 291 in the Real ACT Prep Guide
- 6. StudyGuide Practice Test for The ACT

Once you've completed the 5 steps of the program you'll hopefully taking the test soon. Regardless it's very important that you use FinalPrep a few days prior to test day. Click on the FinalPrep for the SAT or ACT on the left hand side of your homepage.



FinalPrep is about 2 hours 30 minutes of material covering the key concepts of the test. Read through the lessons to gain the boost you need before the test.